# Gambling Apocalypse

# Kaiji

4

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

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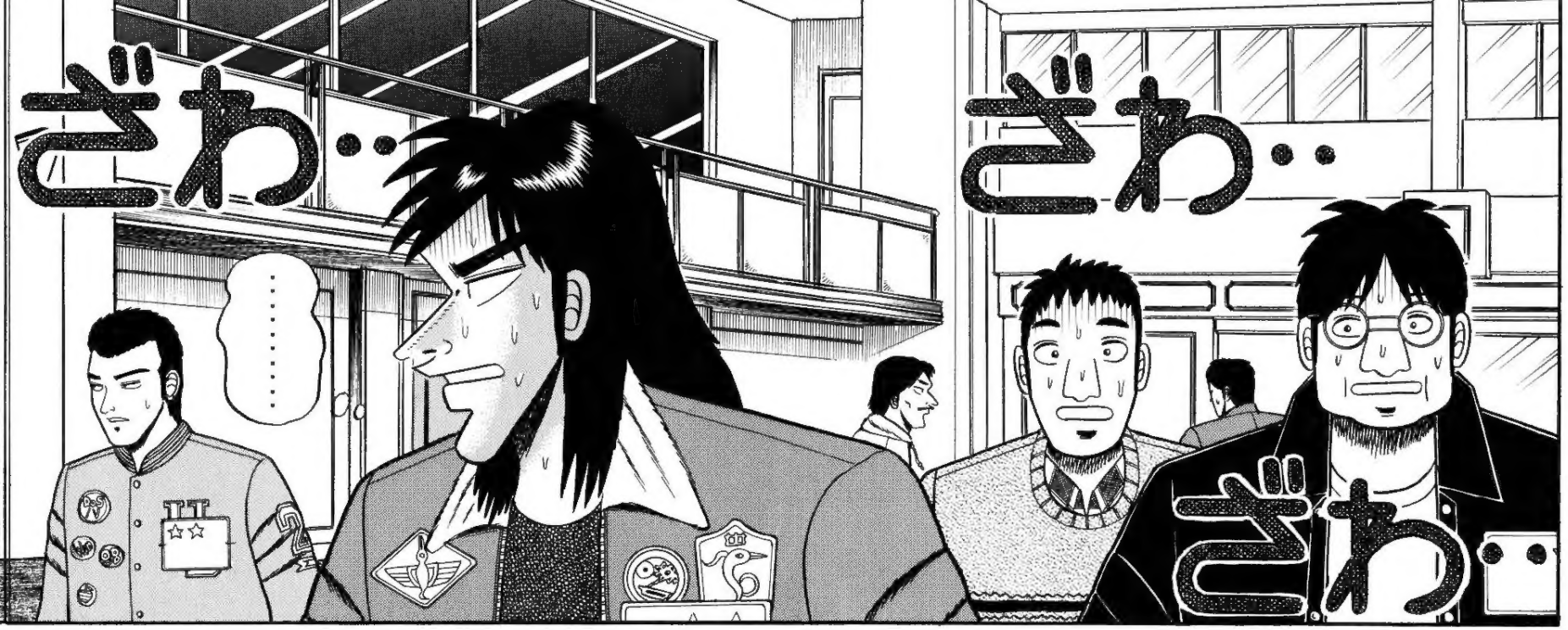
# Janken(Rock-Paper-Scissors)rules

**Paper wins a stone.**

**Stone wins scissors.**

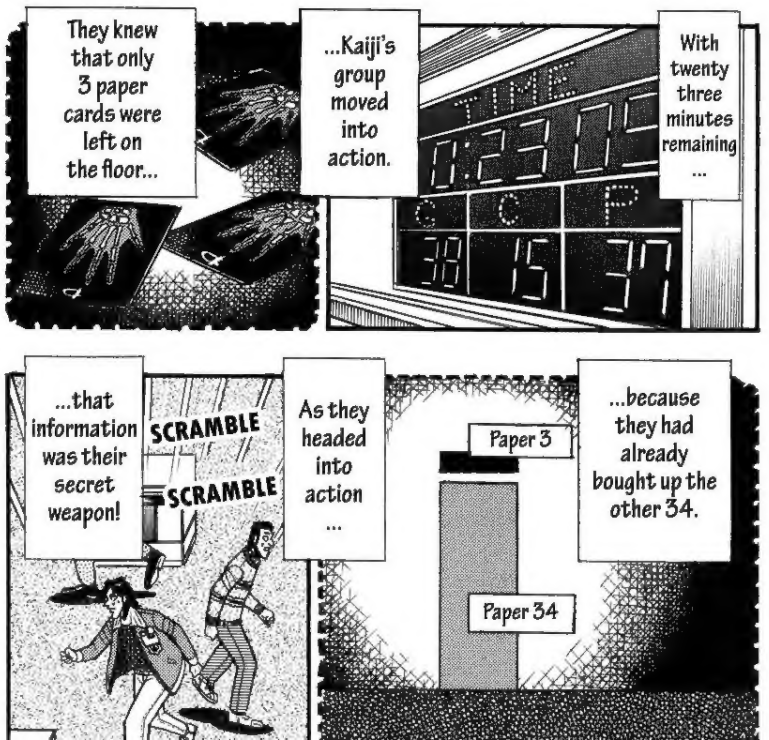
**Scissors win paper.**

# Chapter 36: Sediment

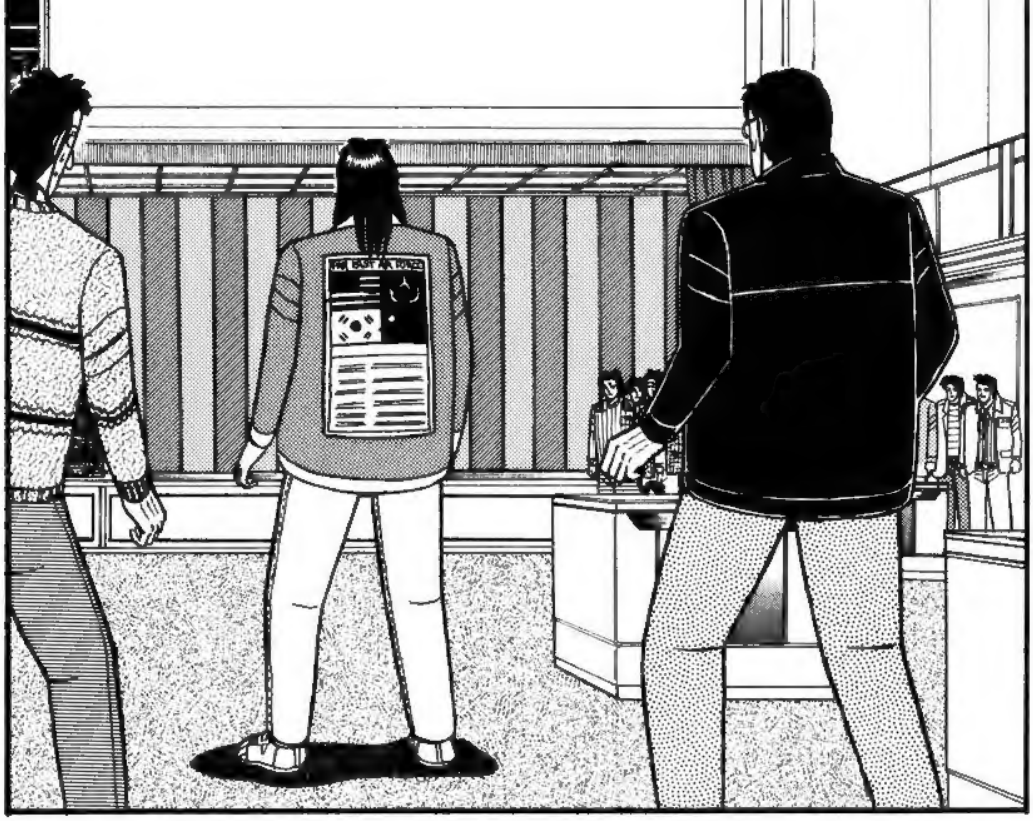



The opportunity had come!!!

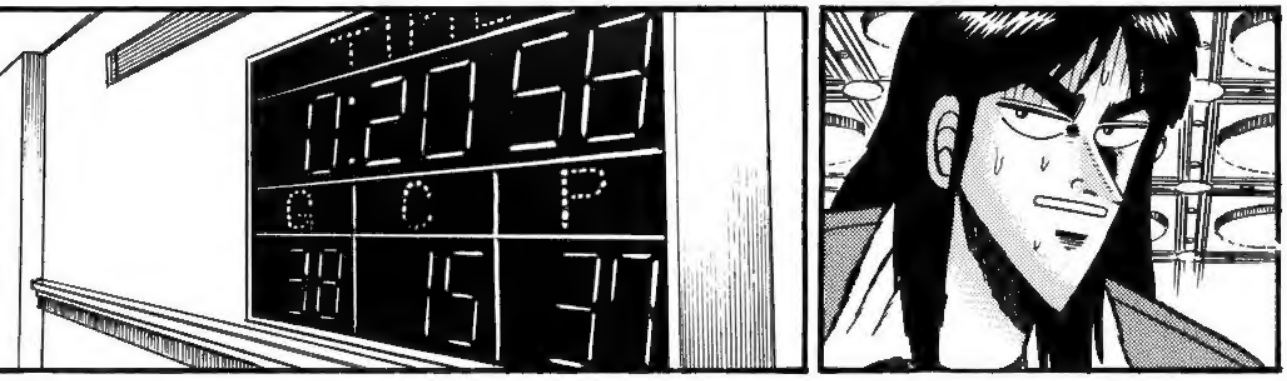
If they could play they would win...
The odds were 77% in their favor (ten wins per three losses).
If they played rock they were certain to win.
SHF
But ...
SHF
If they could play ...


They knew that only 3 paper cards were left on the floor...
...Kaiji's group moved into action.
With twenty three minutes remaining ...
TIME
...that information was their secret weapon!
SCRAMBLE
SCRAMBLE
As they headed into action ...
Paper 3
Paper 34
...because they had already bought up the other 34.

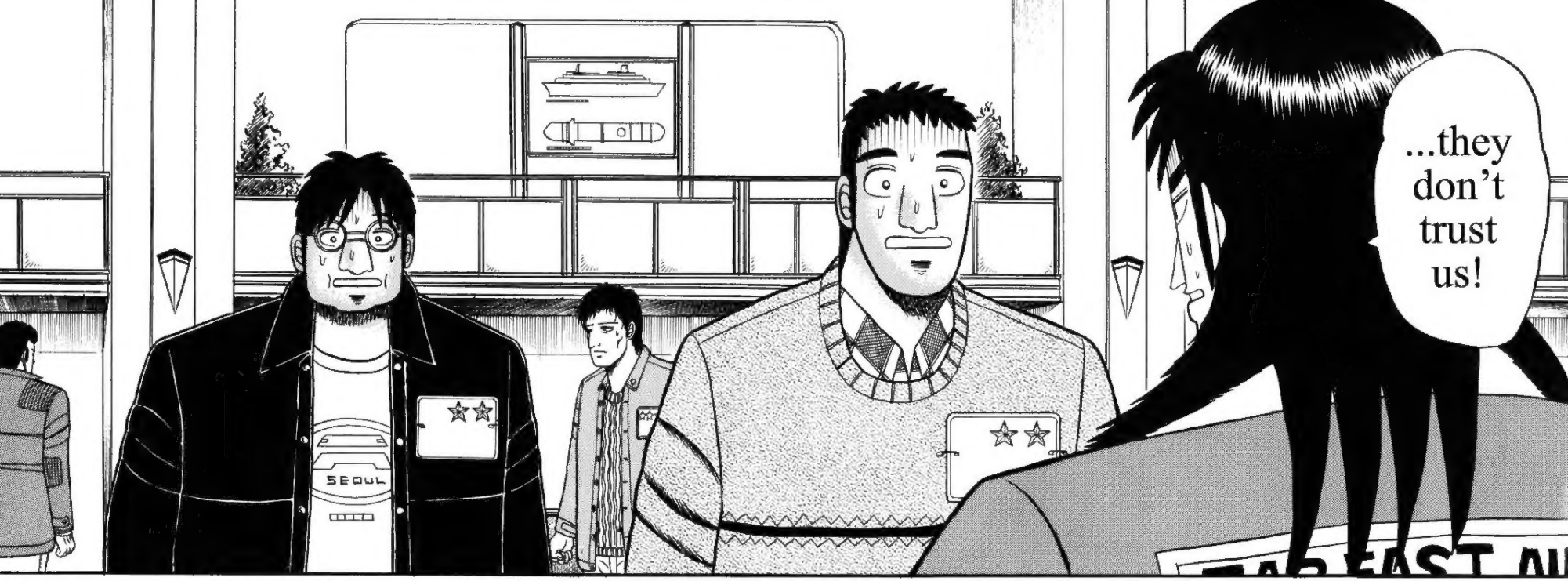
…they couldn't.

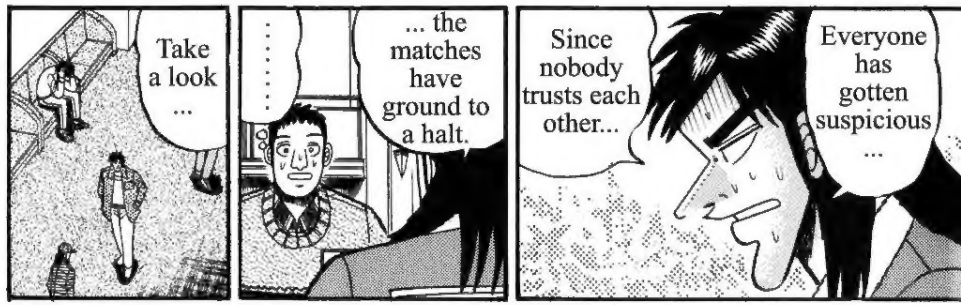


They had hit a wall!!
The game was in deadlock!



Kaiji-san...
HUSTLE HUSTLE
Maybe ...
.....
.....

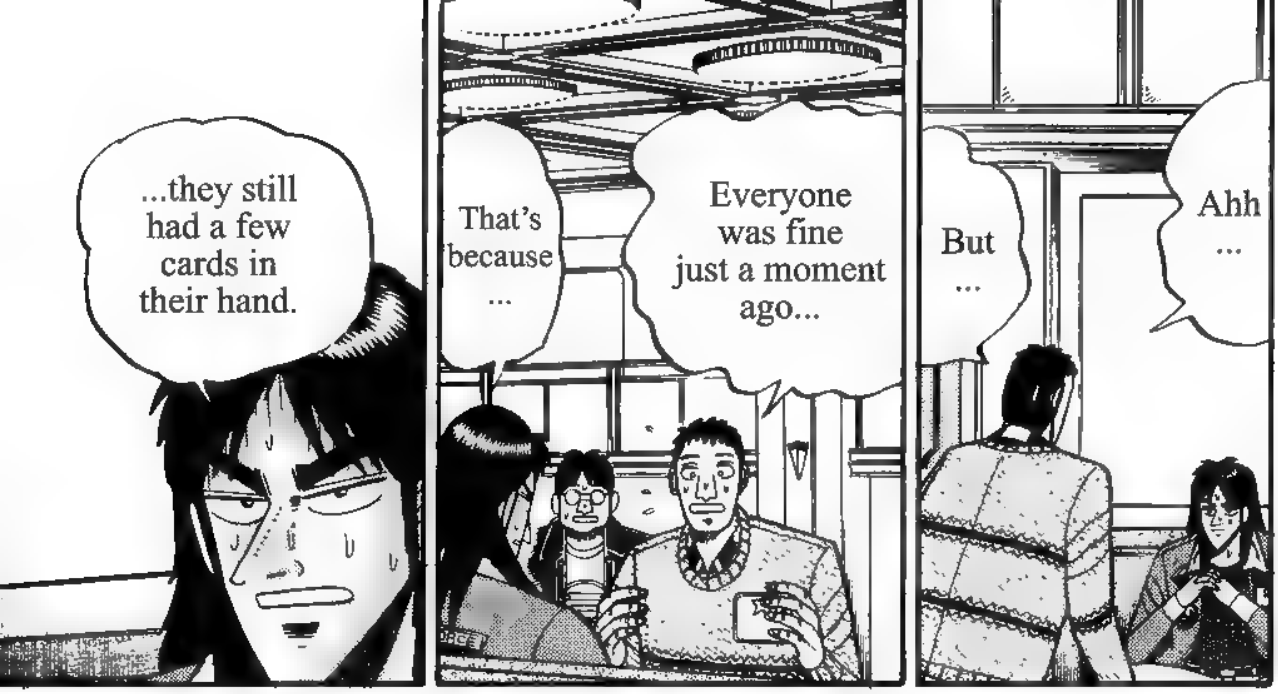

...they don't trust us!
SEOUL

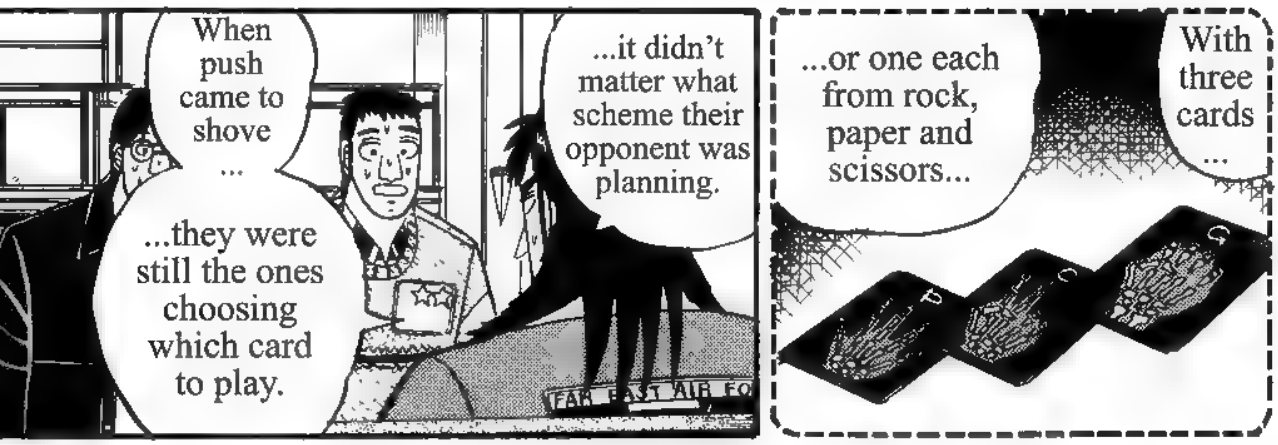

Take a look ...
.....
... the matches have ground to a halt.
Since nobody trusts each other...
Everyone has gotten suspicious ...

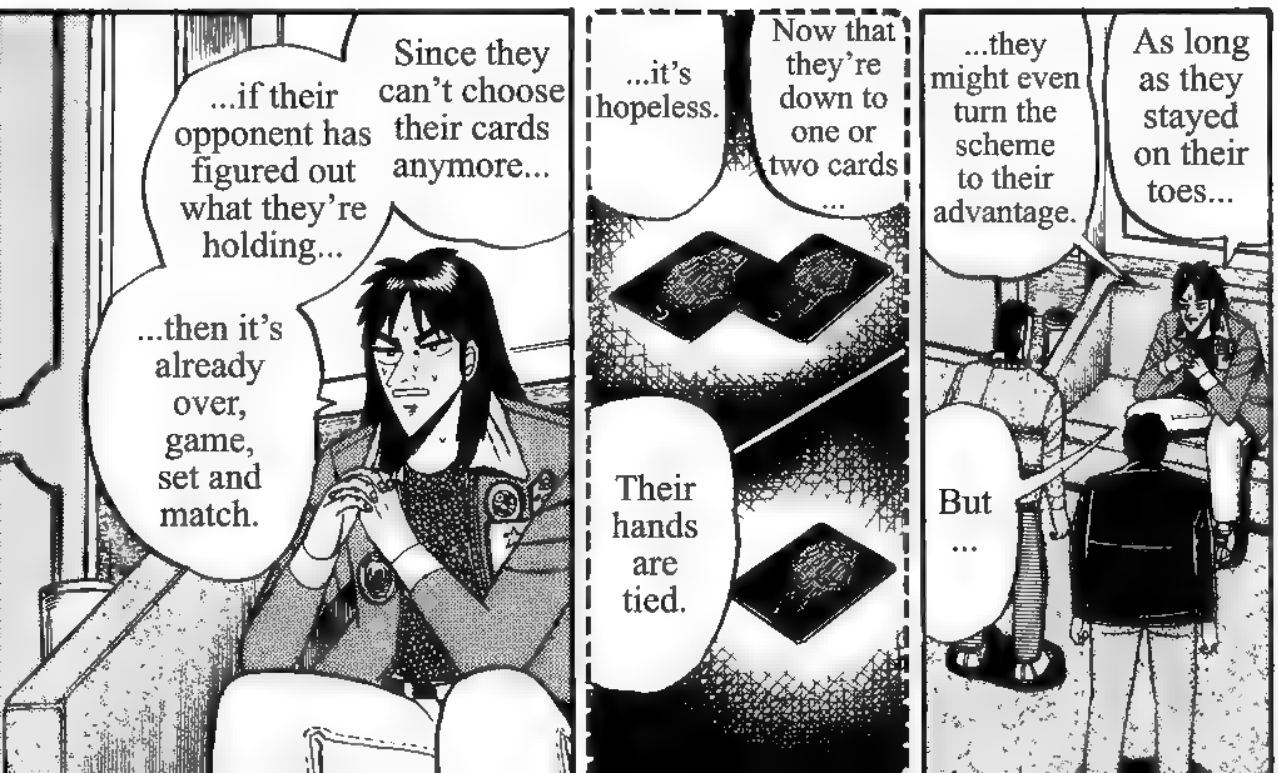
You're right ...
You ...
N-now that you mention it...
ざわざわ
.....

Huh ...?
No one else is playing either.
We're not the only ones who can't find opponents.
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

.....
But why...?
I told you, trust ...!
Obviously
...they've probably been caught up in some themselves.
At this point in the game...
... everybody here has seen their share of underhanded dealings.
Not just seen...
.....
...it's getting difficult to trust anyone!
FAR


...they still had a few cards in their hand.
That's because ...
Everyone was fine just a moment ago...
But ...
Ahh ...

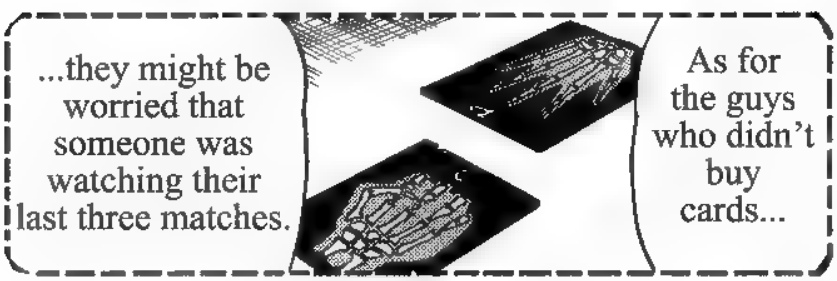

When push came to shove ...
...they were still the ones choosing which card to play.
...it didn't matter what scheme their opponent was planning.
...or one each from rock, paper and scissors...
With three cards ...


...if their opponent has figured out what they're holding...
Since they can't choose their cards anymore...
...then it's already over, game, set and match.
...it's hopeless.
Now that they're down to one or two cards ...
Their hands are tied.
...they might even turn the scheme to their advantage.
As long as they stayed on their toes...
But ...

Defeat is guaranteed ...!

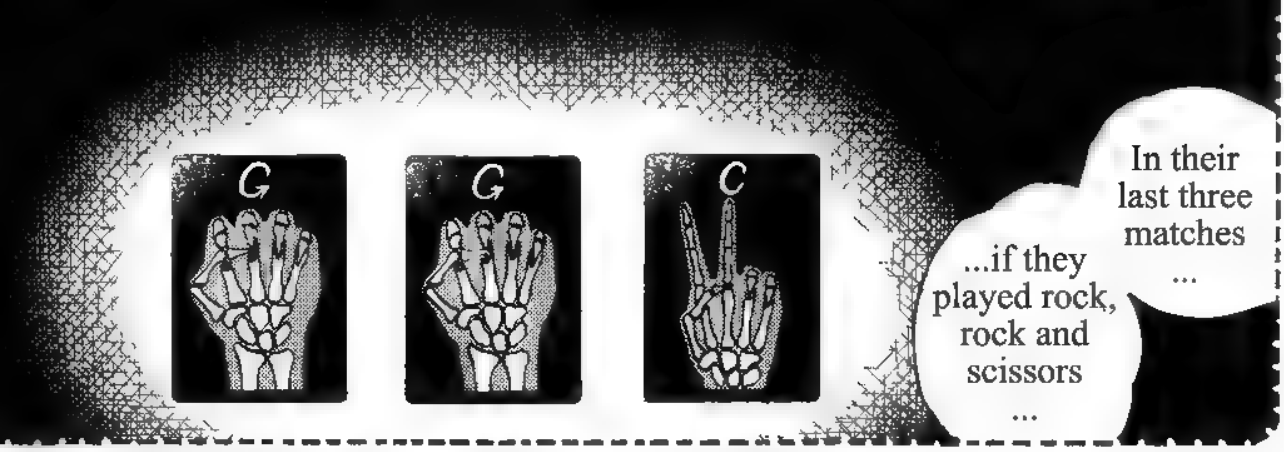
...should be in full -swing paranoia now.
...anyone who has bought cards during the game...

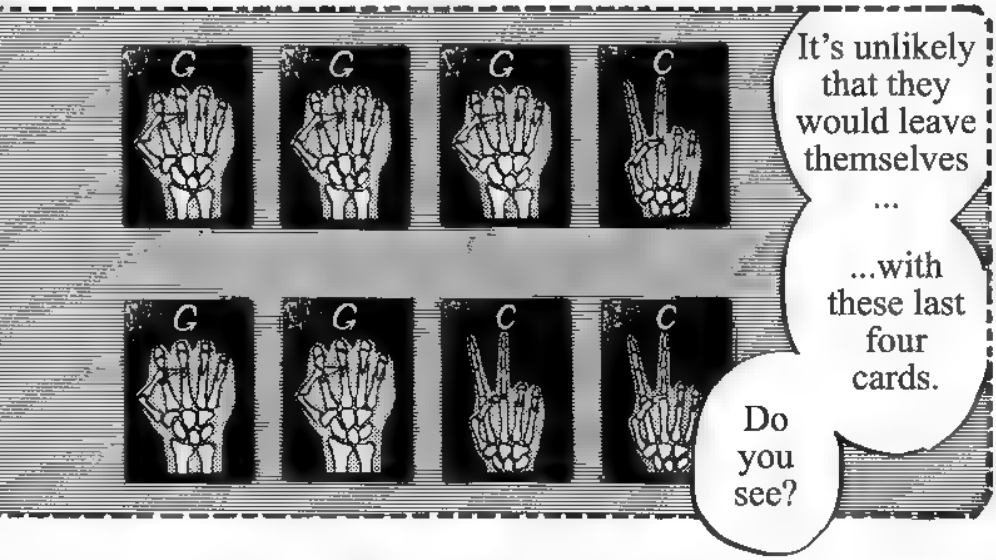
Which means ...
.....


...they might be worried that someone was watching their last three matches.
As for the guys who didn't buy cards...

...of their next opponent.
That information could have been sold, and wound up in the hands...
There's no way to be sure.

Consider ...
.....
Which means ...
...they don't want to play either.


G
G
C
In their last three matches ...
...if they played rock, rock and scissors ...


G
G
G
C
G
G
C
C
It's unlikely that they would leave themselves ...
...with these last four cards.
Do you see?

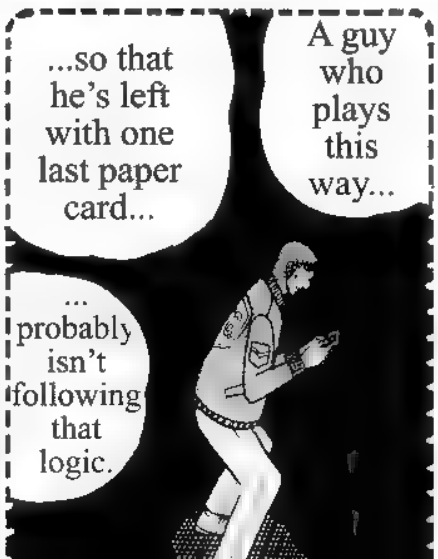
...chances are high that their last card is paper.

Even still ...
...to be sure.
...there must be some guys who used up their paper cards earlier. There's no way...

Obviously ...
.....

But ...!
... he doesn't want to make a move.

Since there's no way to be sure...
Chances are he's most worried that someone has gotten the drop on him...


...so that he's left with one last paper card...
A guy who plays this way...
... probably isn't following that logic.

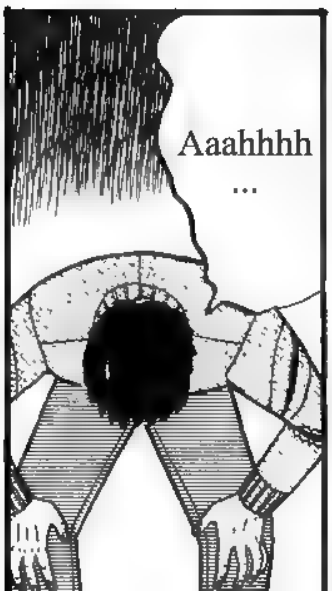
All we can do is wait ...!
Kaiji-san...!
How can you be so calm about this ...?
Where does that leave us ...?

All we can do is wait for the time to come ...!
...we'll be ready for them.

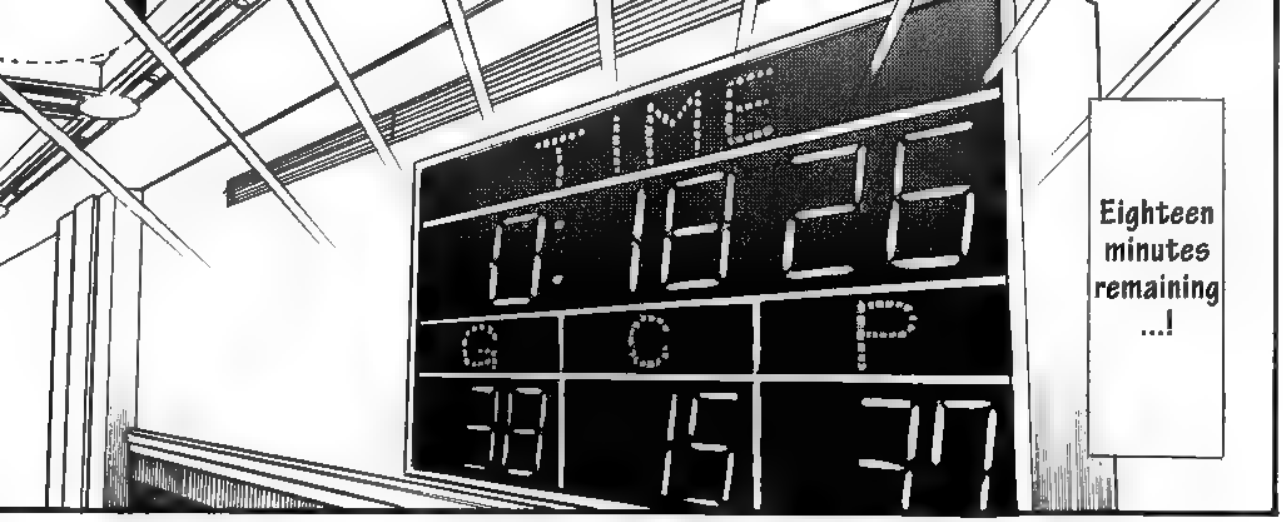
... they'll have to play sooner or later.
Since we have to use up our cards in the end ...
When that time comes ...

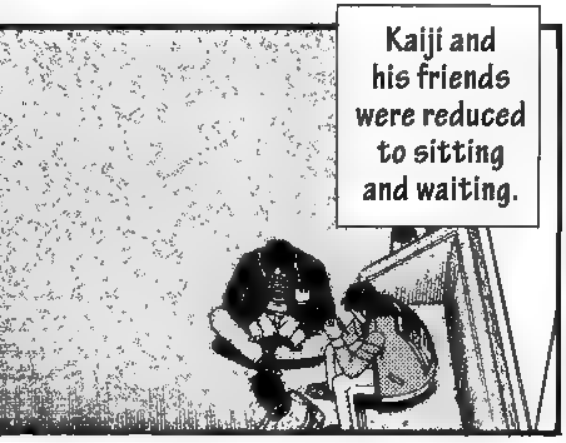
Ahh ...

All we can do is wait ...!


Aaahhhh ...

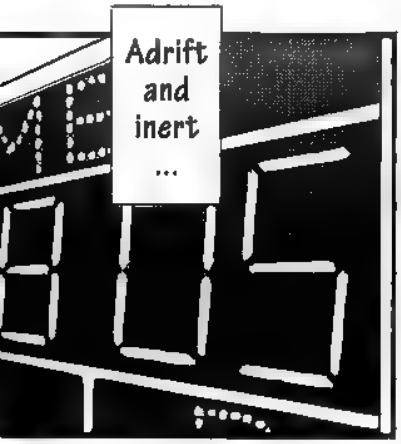
19 minutes remaining...
TIME
0:19:20
GAME 15 30

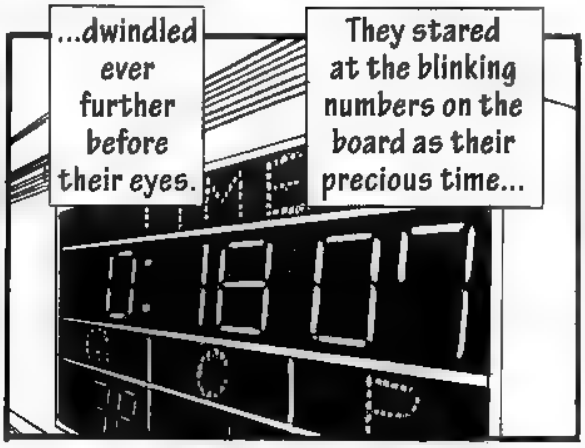

TIME
0:18:25
G O P
38 15 30
Eighteen minutes remaining ...!

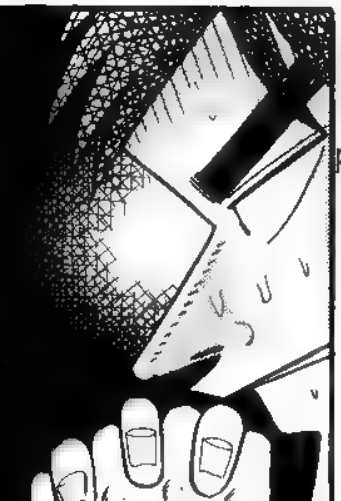

Kaiji and his friends were reduced to sitting and waiting.

Man ...!

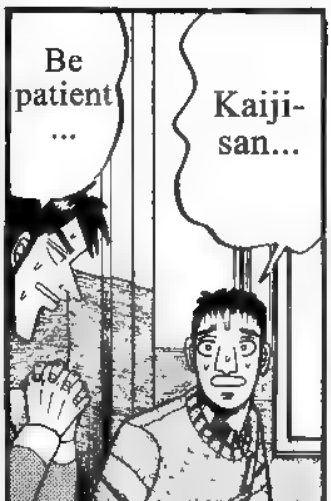
.....
SCRATCH
SCRATCH


Adrift and inert ...

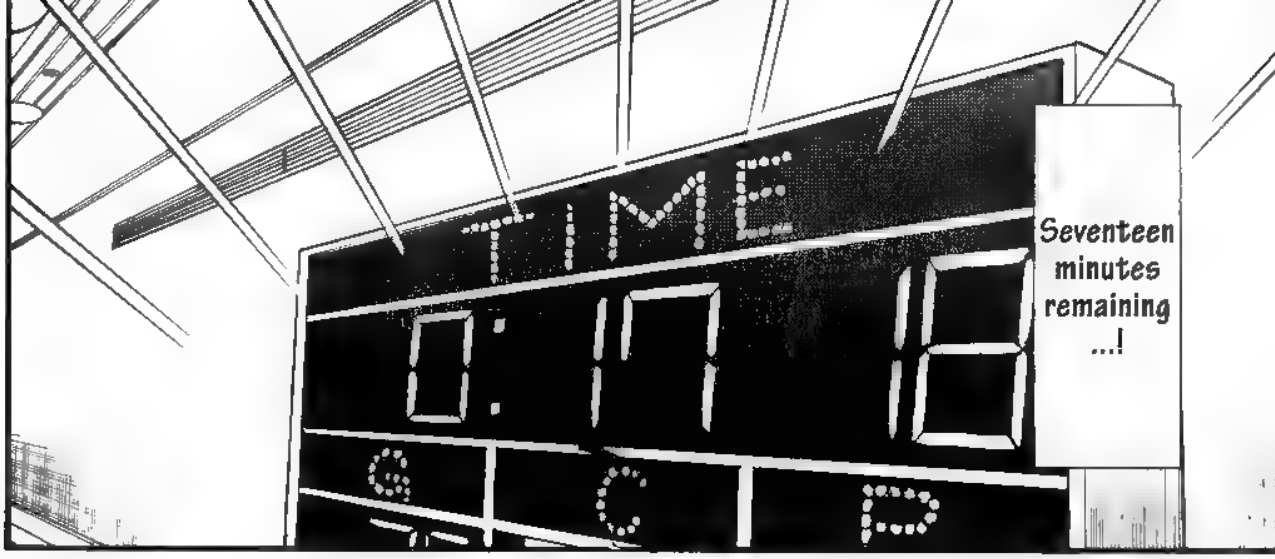

...dwindled ever further before their eyes.
They stared at the blinking numbers on the board as their precious time...

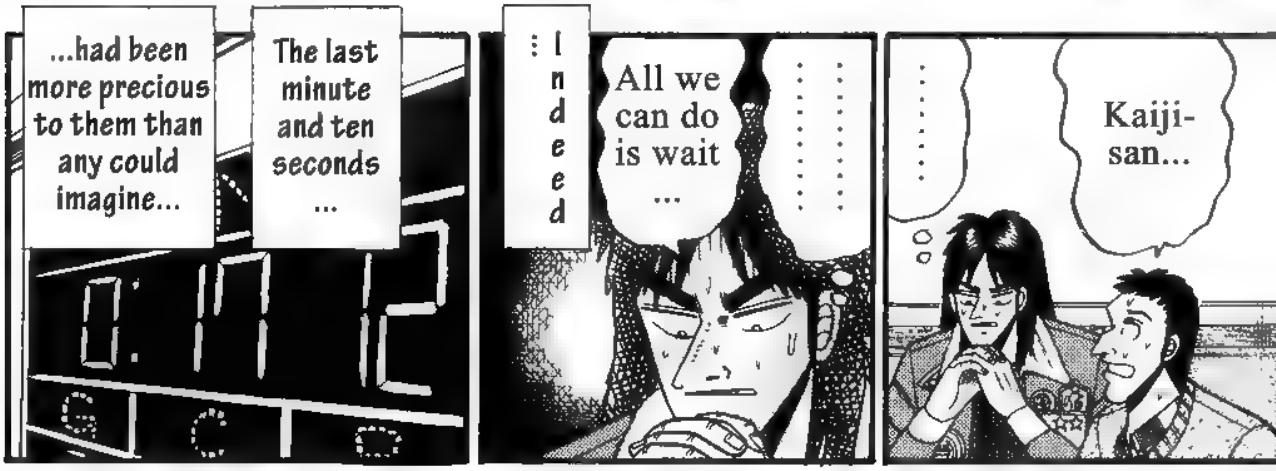


We have to be patient ...!


Be patient ...
Kaiji-san...

.....
They could only wait, unable to lift a hand in their favor...


TIME
Seventeen minutes remaining ...!


...had been more precious to them than any could imagine...
The last minute and ten seconds ...
Indeed
All we can do is wait ...
.....
.....
Kaiji-san...

Like stone statues, neither feeling nor thinking...
...they sat in place.
All they could do now is wait.
... but that didn't change the fact...
They knew this very well...

Kaiji-san, let's go...!
I can't take it anymore ...!
Pull yourself together !
GASP
Sixteen minutes remaining ...!

We wait ...!
We can't just sit here...
If you act now it's over.
Even if you make a scene no one is going to agree to play...!
Go where...? Do what...?
But ...
Kaiji-san...
You'd be committing suicide. Get it through your head...!
What's wrong with you people ...!
The opportunity will come ....
Furuhata, be patient ...!
But ...
If you keep dawdling we'll never get anywhere ...!

End of Chapter 36

Listen up...!
ざわ..ざわ..
ざわ..

But sitting around with your hands tied like this is just stupid...!
...what cards I'm holding?
I know what you're thinking. What if the other guy somehow knew...

So ...
...for any of us!
This isn't doing any good...

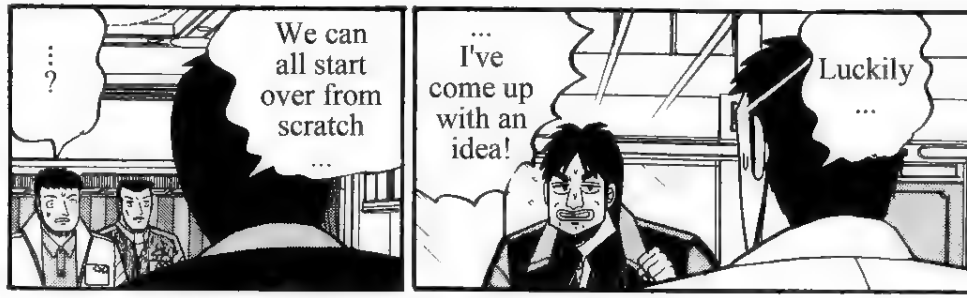
Do you plan to just sit around while the clock runs out...?
The only thing ...
...that will accomplish, is to make things even hard on us!

If this deadlock continues ...
...we'll be left as sitting ducks!

Time we dove in, feet first ...!
It's time to wake up...

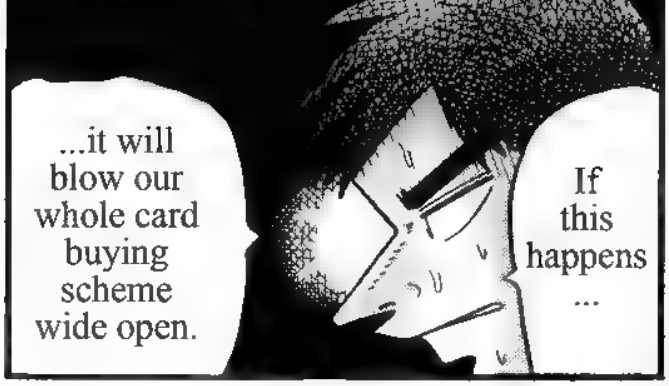
ざわ‥ざわ‥
ざわ‥
Chapter 37: Ad Absurdum

Are you with me ...?
We can get rid of the doubt that's hanging over us...!


...?
We can all start over from scratch ...
... I've come up with an idea!
Luckily ...

That snake ...
K- Kaiji-san ...
.....
ざわ‥ざわ‥
ざわ‥
Pixel cat

We'll all be right back where we started, with a clean slate.
That way, it doesn't matter anymore who knows whose card ...!
... shuffle them, and then re-deal!
We can collect all the cards together ...


...it will blow our whole card buying scheme wide open.
If this happens ...

... I should have known he was up to no good.
The minute he opened his mouth ...

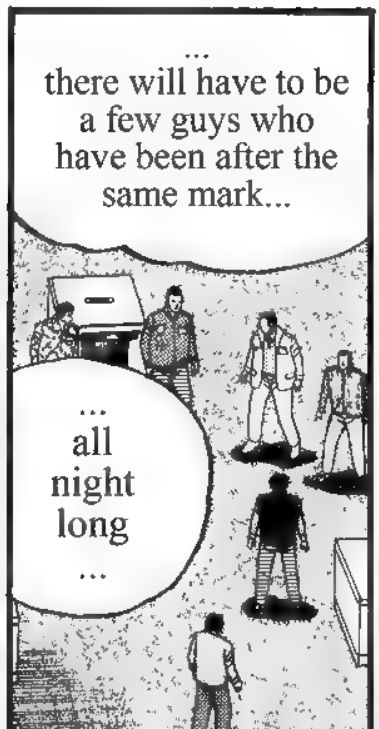
Kaiji-san ...!
Our advantage over scissors will be destroyed ...

If we handle this wrong it could still spell even bigger disaster
We don't want to stand out.
Let's wait.

No ...

.....
Shouldn't we oppose it...?
Let's squash his plan while we can ...

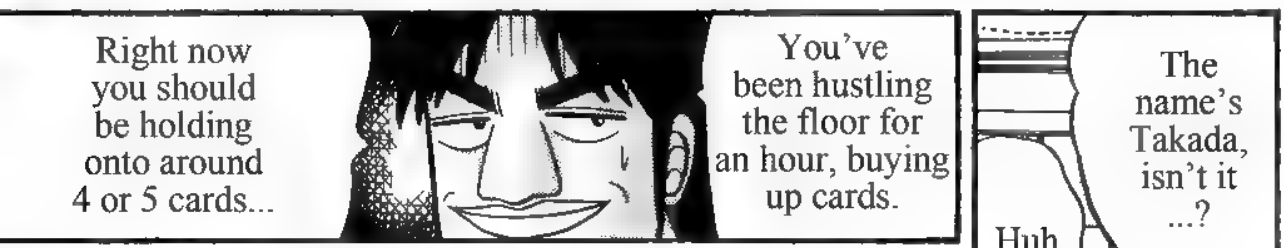
... and think they have a sure win.
One of them is bound to oppose shuffling the cards ...

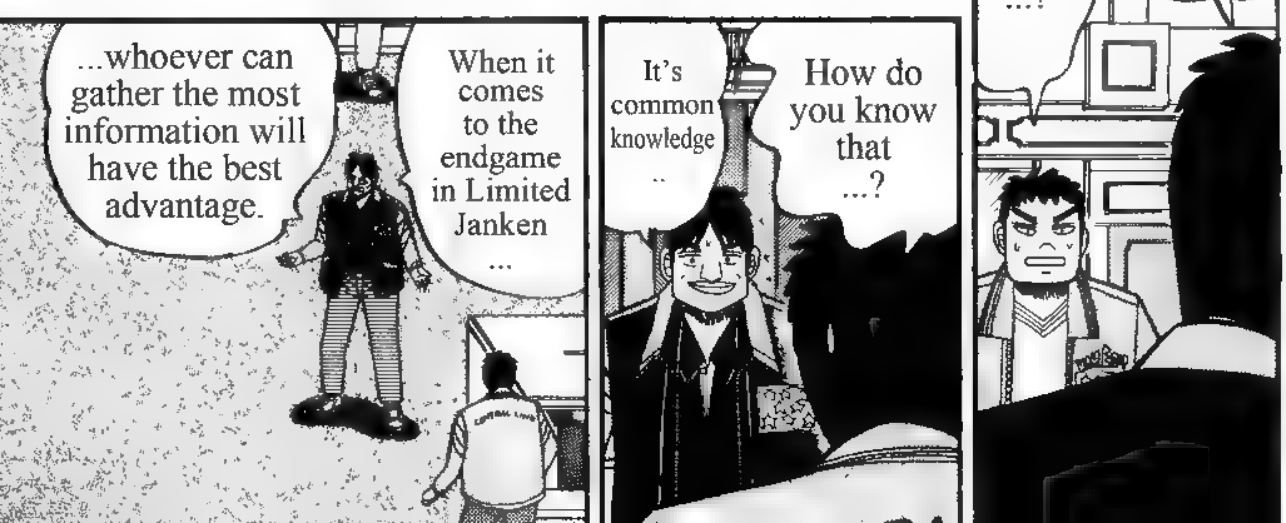

... there will have to be a few guys who have been after the same mark...
... all night long ...

Even if we do nothing ...
Don't worry ...

Get lost ...!
It's a good idea ...!
How about it ...?
Well ...?
.....
They'll squash this craziness for us ..

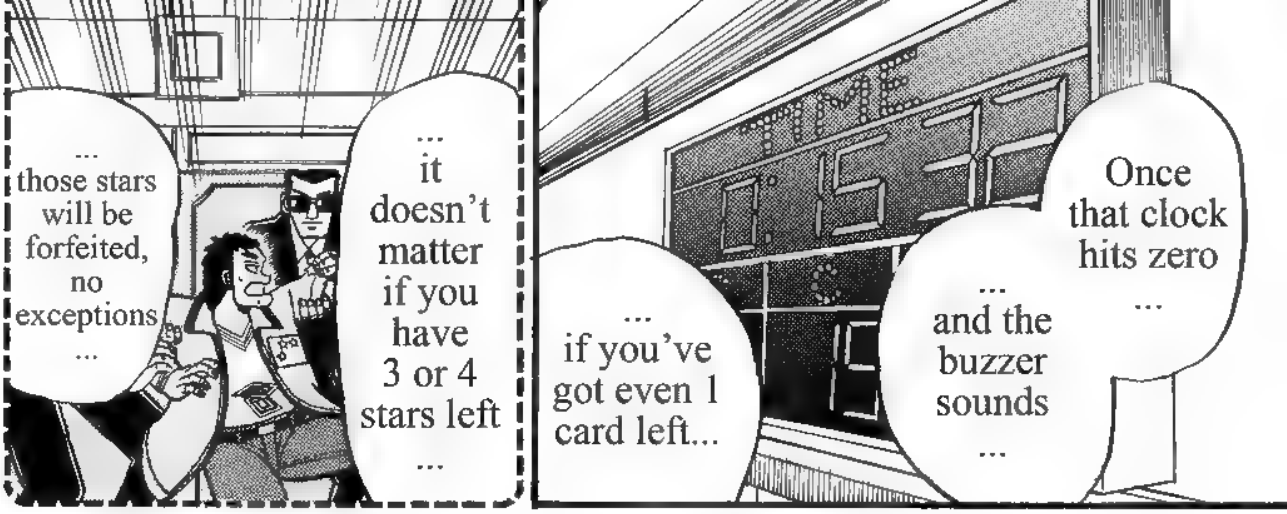
Hehehe ...
What right do you have to just wipe that clean ...!
Everyone has made it to where they are now by stumbling along as best they can.
Just who do you think you are ...!?


Right now you should be holding onto around 4 or 5 cards...
You've been hustling the floor for an hour, buying up cards.


...whoever can gather the most information will have the best advantage.
When it comes to the endgame in Limited Janken ...
It's common knowledge ..
How do you know that ...?
Huh ...?
The name's Takada, isn't it ...?

That was your plan, wasn't it?
... of who bought what cards along the way.
... who has been keeping track ...
After all, it's a surefire way to win.
You know you're not the only one ...
If you haven't figure that much out you're still an amateur.
... and now you're just waiting to lure them into your trap.
You've been keeping tabs on what cards the other guys are holding ...
It doesn't matter either way.
I'm making it up then ...
Hmph ...
You're making this stuff up ...!
Tell me I'm wrong..
... has run into a dead end.
The problem right now is that the whole con strategy ...the ambush...
Th-That's crazy ...!
CENTRAL LINE

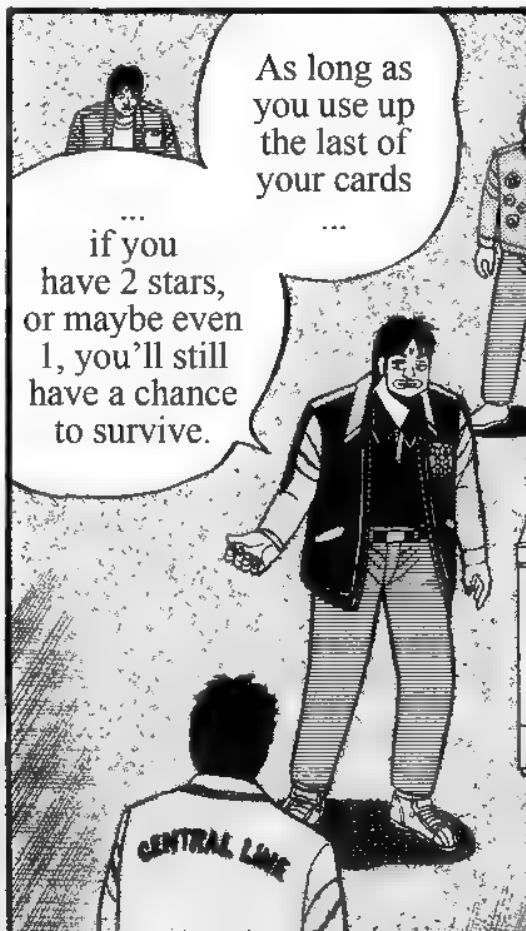
Ahh ...
No one's act now ...!
It's too fishy. Your game is stinking up the whole room.
... the mark you're aiming for isn't going to bite.
You can keep waiting as long as you like...
Huh ...?
Right now, you should be thinking about the danger you're in ...
Save that for later ...
You filthy dog ...
If you think this game is real trouble ...
...or that the hand you're left with is real trouble, you're wrong.
Listen close, everybody !
Pixel cat
.....
You'll be in real trouble then.
I'm saying, you need to think about what will happen if time runs out before you play all your cards.


... those stars will be forfeited, no exceptions ...
... it doesn't matter if you have 3 or 4 stars left ...
... if you've got even 1 card left...
... and the buzzer sounds ...
Once that clock hits zero ...

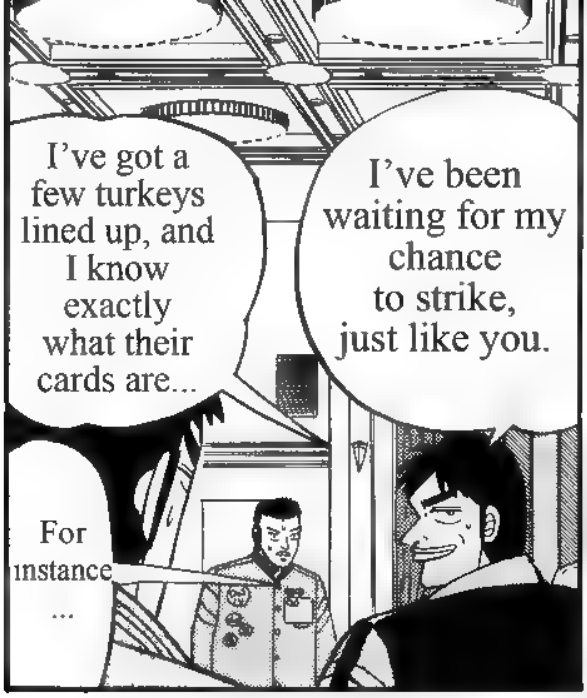
However ...
Ah ...
... and you'll be sent to the other room!

... during the final star auction.
Once the game is over and the final buzzer has rung, you can still be saved...

... then in the end, you'll survive.
If you can manage to get 3 stars then...


As long as you use up the last of your cards ...
... if you have 2 stars, or maybe even 1, you'll still have a chance to survive.
CENTRAL LINE

As for you jerks who already have 3 stars ...
They're already waiting for the auction.
See those slackjaws there who couldn't get 3 stars?
... it'll still be possible for you to survive.
... even if you wind up losing 2 of them ...
... then it's game over, lights out.
If you sit around doing nothing instead and have cards left over when the time runs out...
Hmph ...
Aahhh ...
Ahh ...
You'll lose everything ...!


I've got a few turkeys lined up, and I know exactly what their cards are...
I've been waiting for my chance to strike, just like you.
For instance ...

I'm in that exact same situation myself.
Of course I'm hardly one to talk ...

... and the guy next to them with long hair has paper.
I know that the guy in the glasses there has rock, the one in the hat scissors....

Hehehe
Wh-what ...

You couldn't be more stupid if you tried!
You're the only who doesn't know...!
Are you dumb ...!?
What are you talking about ....!

He'll use that cash to buy enough stars to survive. He uses the same strategy every time.
You see ...
He went and sold your information for cash to half the room.
The guy, Kato, who sold you those cards is a repeater ...
In other words ...
I bet half the guys here have bought his info...
Once he sells a card he trades that information to every one for even more cash.
... your cards are public knowledge!
Hehehe ...
Ngh ... !
.....

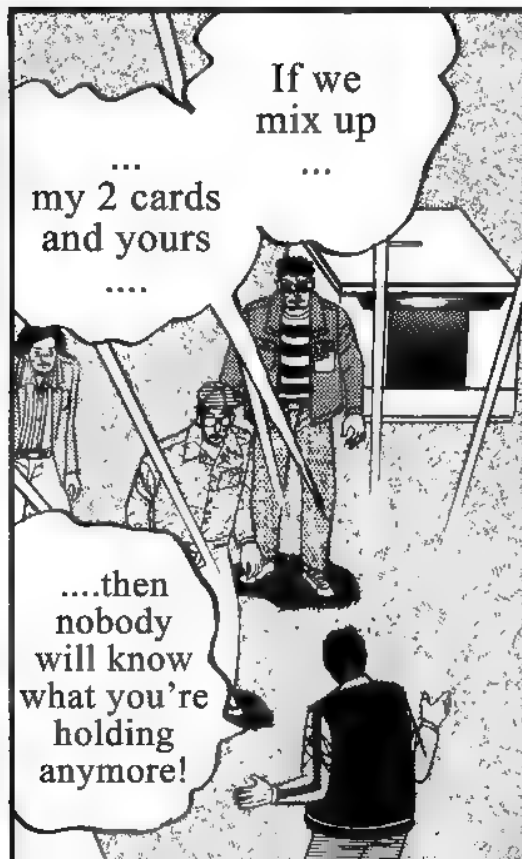
If you stand around with your hand in your pockets...
Right now you're just worms dangling on a hook.

It's time you figured out what's going on around here!
This is no time to simper ...!

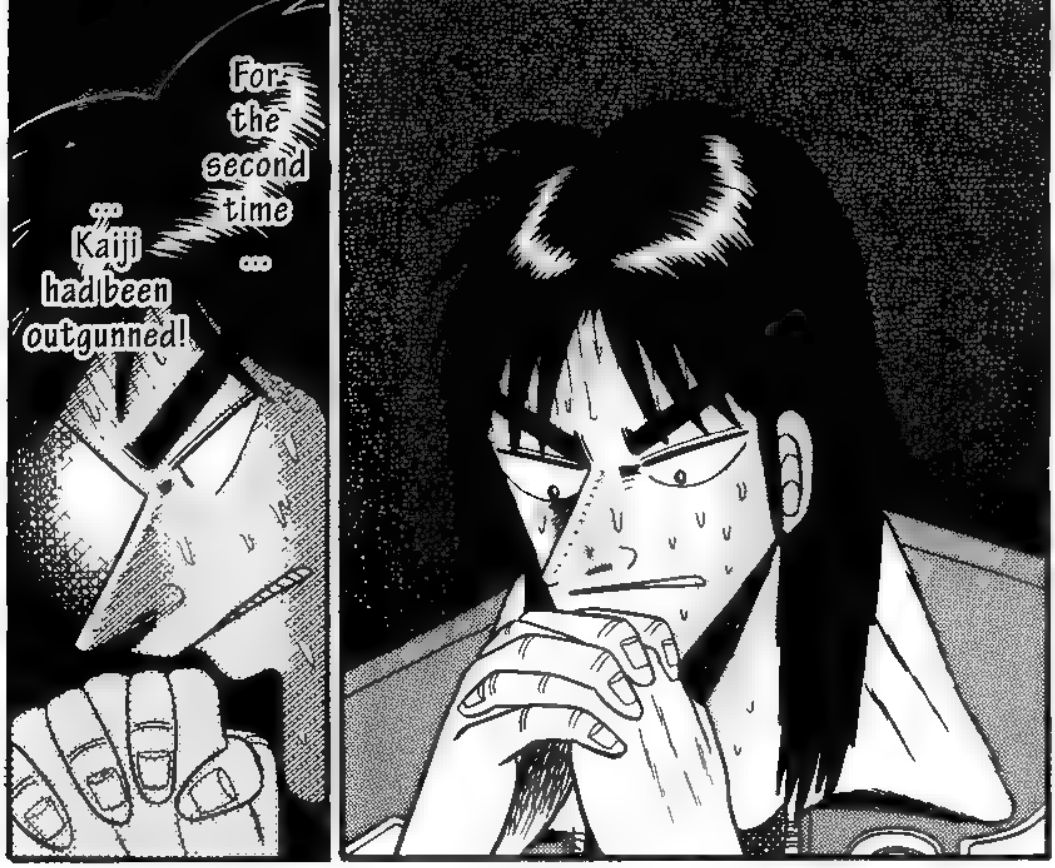
Come with me ...!
Ahh ...
...how is that going to solve anything!?

You'll have a clean slate ...!

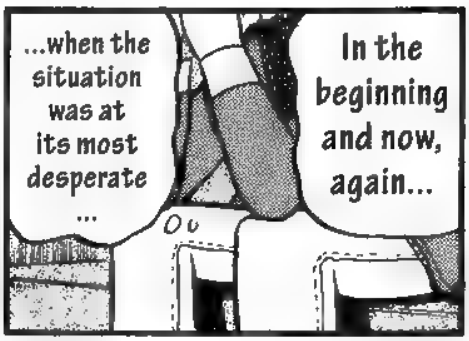
Come on ...!

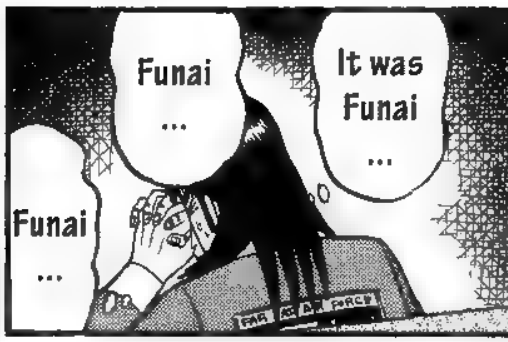

If we mix up ...
... my 2 cards and yours ....
....then nobody will know what you're holding anymore!

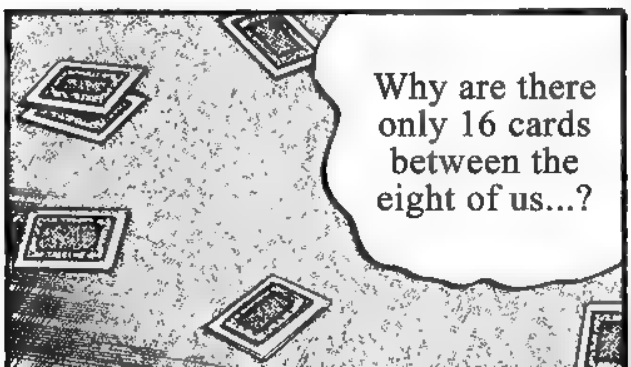
.....
The next to join was Takada, who had lost his mark...
...
and in less than thirty seconds
...
Afterwards it was an avalanche.
These first three were the spark
...
SCRAMBLE
SCRAMBLE
The hole they were in grew deeper, with no way back up.
Their opponents were disappearing like flies
...
.....
Kaiji-san ...!
...
Seven players had joined up with Funai
...
...
and agreed to shuffle their cards.
Against a reef which would betray
...
...
their entire hand.
They had run aground ...!

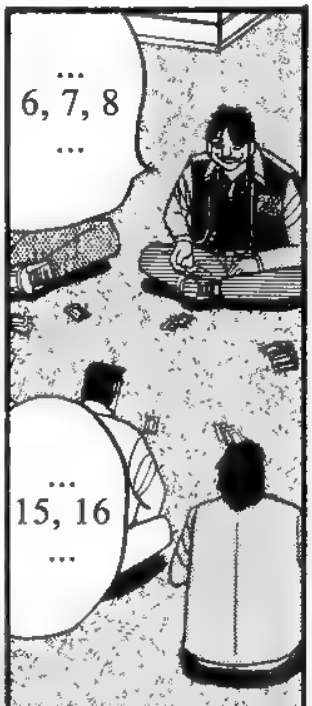


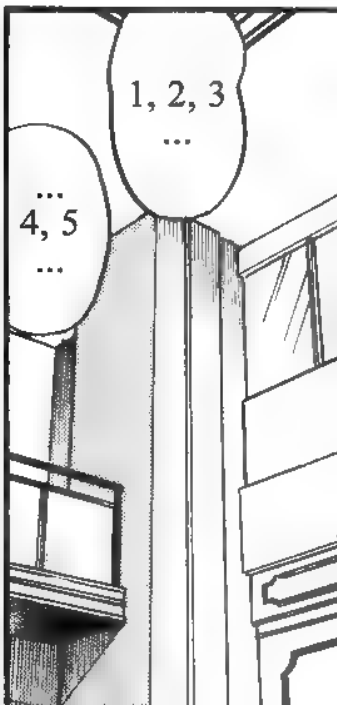

Another plan would be ruined ...!





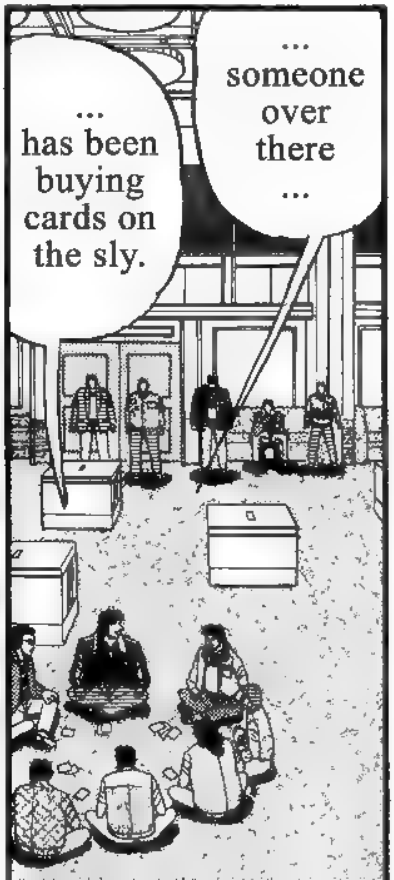



Uh-uh, no way.
Somebody here is lying about what they have ...!
It's not possible that we would only have 16 altogether.
According to the scoreboard there should still be 90 cards left...

Perhaps ...
At this stage, hiding extra cards would be meaningless...
If they don't use up all their cards then they're out anyways.

ざわ...
.....

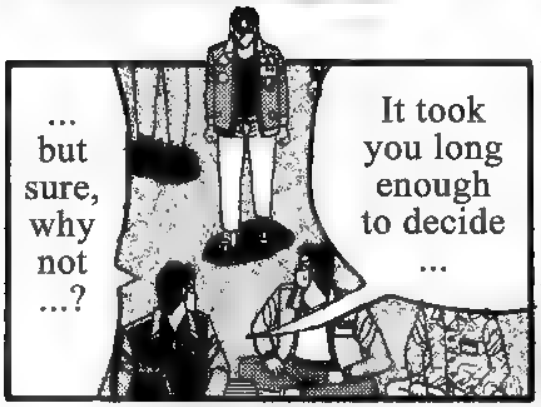

... someone over there ...
... has been buying cards on the sly.

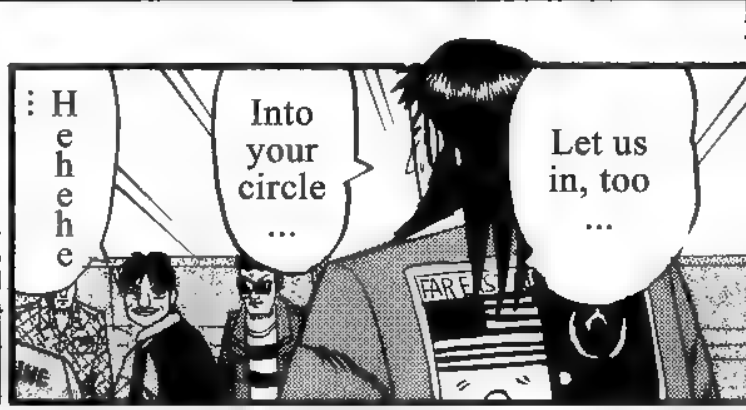
Who cares ...?
Hmph ...

ざわ
ざわ...

...
are
the ones
who had
the sense to
join in for
the shuffle.
We can
just think of
ourselves as
a members-only
club. The
only guys
allowed in...
The rest
of us will
get by just
fine on
our own.
Let those
morons
do what
they like.
Nobody
else is
allowed in...
Absolutely
nobody
...!
We
keep the
matches
among
ourselves.
HUSTLE
HUSTLE
Ngh
...!
Kaiji-
san
...!
Hmph
Let me
in too
...
Me
too
...

Aside from a few hardheads that's nearly everyone.
That makes ten of us ...
Now then ...
Why not ?
Come on in ...
Outside matches are forbidden.
We keep these matches among ourselves.
Pixel cat
It's decided then ...!
.....
Kaiji-san ...!
Let's shake on it ...
GASP
Wait ...!



End of Chapter 37

# Chapter 38: Up in Smoke

Kaiji ... faced a bitter choice!

At first, Kaiji expected Funai to have trouble... ... in pulling off such an extreme idea...

With time nearly up, Funai had proposed that they all reshuffle their cards.

... but Funai had a silver tongue.

He convinced them ...

... and before Kaiji knew it, everyone was on board.

But once the cards were shuffled ... ...their card-buying would be exposed.

They had tried their hardest to avoid it ...

They didn't want to join ...

.....

Only Kaiji's group was left.

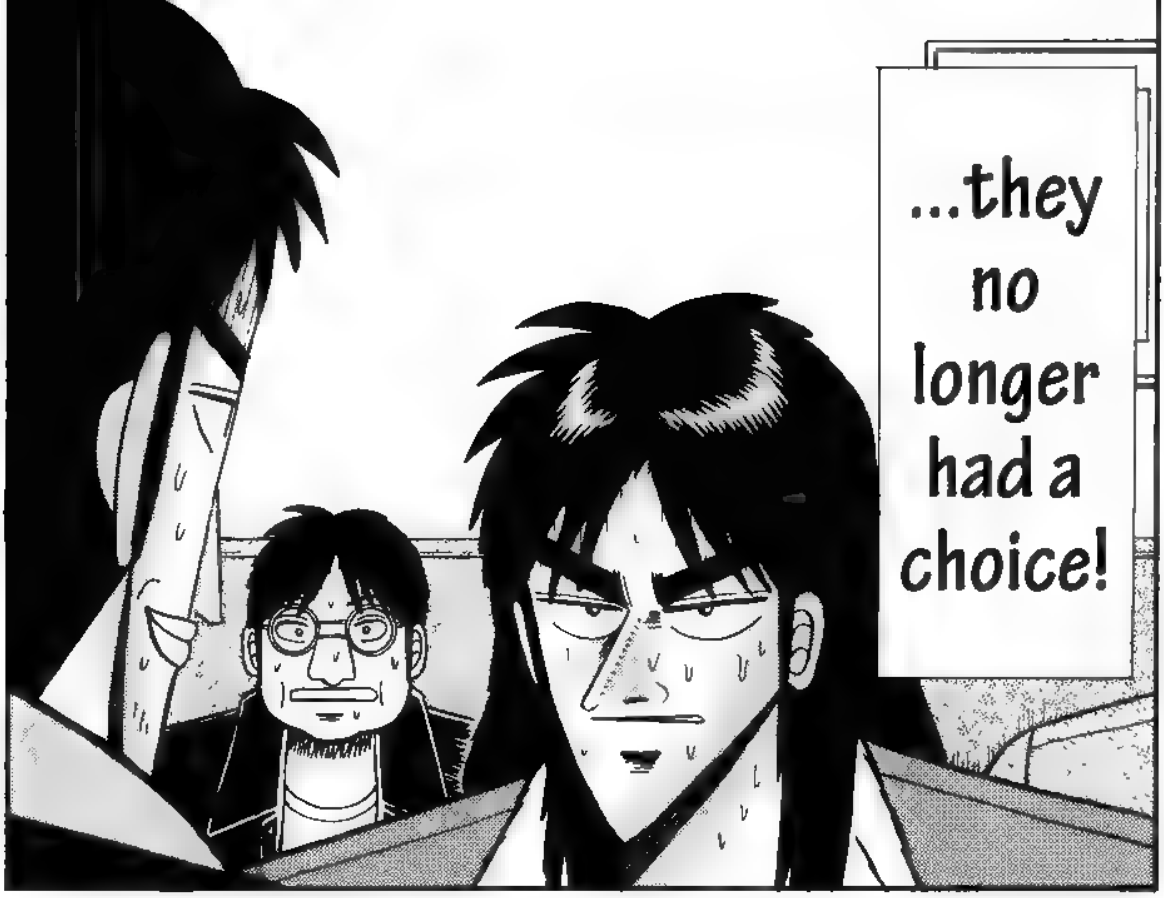
But ...

In fact, it was unbearable ...

It was difficult to stomach ...

...to buy up both rock and paper would be ruined.

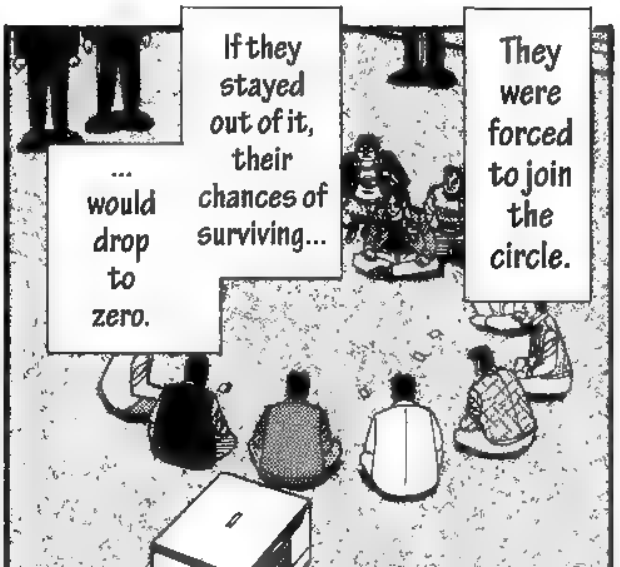
That would mean that their final strategy ...


...they no longer had a choice!

...for them to win the game.
If they ran out of opponents then there would be no way left...

...they would have to just shut up and fall in line.
Since everyone else agreed to reshuffle ...

Some small chance of surviving.
However if they went ahead and joined there was still some hope...


... would drop to zero.
If they stayed out of it, their chances of surviving...
They were forced to join the circle.

Alright, Kaiji ...
A narrow escape route was left...!
Even though their plan was ruined...
...if they could navigate through this final chaos...
...they could make a comeback.
Kaiji would take his chances on that escape.
.....
How many cards ...
...do you guys have?
The three of us ...
FWLAPP
... have 69 cards!

You see, it all comes out now.

...are smoked out of their den.

...that even greedy little badgers...

It's thanks to these announcements ...

ざわ

Funai was right ...

Alright, let's have 'em...

... should match up now.

Our cards and the scoreboard ..

38 15

.....

This finally explains the huge difference between the cards on the scoreboard and our actual count.

It takes care of those scoundrels waiting to stab us in the back...

This is another benefit of reshuffling.

See ...!

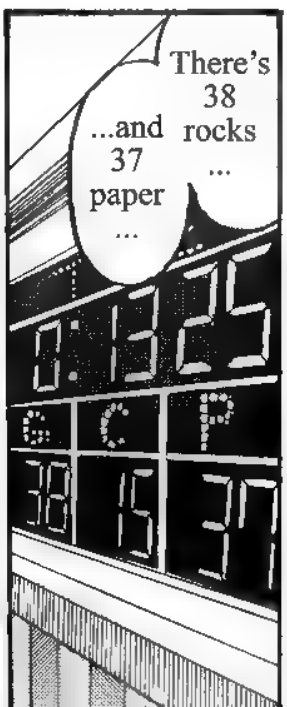
Hmph

ざわ…

ざわ…

: However
...it seemed a given, both to Funai and the rest...
Since Kaiji's group had been stockpiling such an astonishing number of cards...
They should have matched ...
...that the two numbers would now match up.

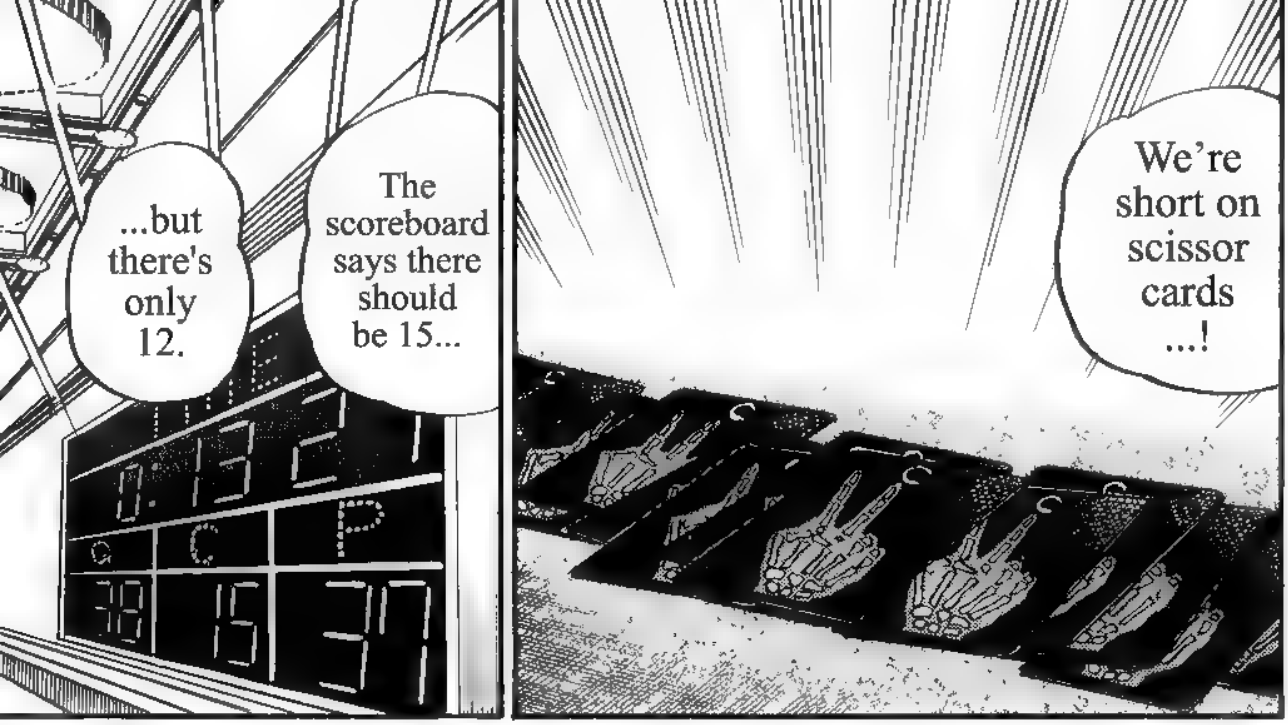
That matches the scoreboard.
... which is fine ...


There's 38 rocks ...
...and 37 paper ...

Huh ...?

... ?
That's no problem ...
But ...

It's just ...
Whaddya mean, "huh"...?


...but there's only 12.
The scoreboard says there should be 15...
We're short on scissor cards ...!

Huh ...?

...does that mean that someone is still trying to cheat us!?
Then ...

We're short 3 cards ...
Huh ...!?
CENTRAL LINE

Hold on there ...!
Wait ...
One of us ...!?
CENTRAL LINE

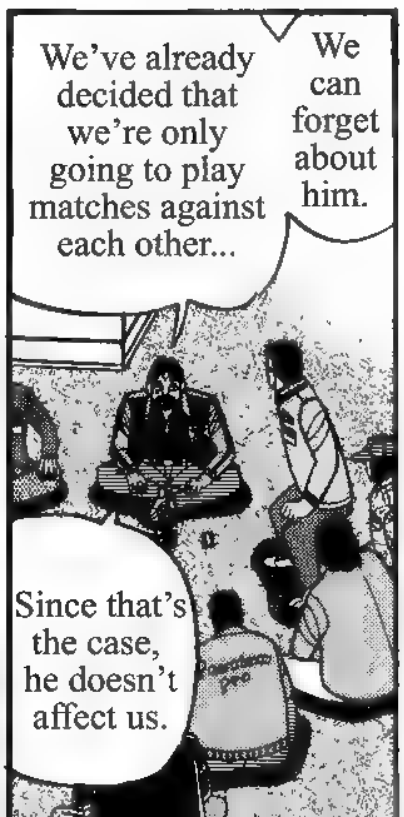
Hiding cards would be paramount to hanging your own neck.
Which means ...
... there's an end to that.
As long as we agree that we can't play more cards than we've declared...
It's hard to imagine one of us is trying to pull off a trick like that.
Our necks are on the block here.
... they're over there ...
Perhaps ...
CENTRAL LINE
...can't be one of us.
...whoever's holding those 3 scissor cards...
With one of those guys ...?
ざわ...
CENTRAL
...who is holding onto 3 scissor cards.
...but there must be someone who hasn't joined us...
I don't know what his strategy is...
CENTRAL LINE

A Mr. X ...!

But ...

ざわ・・

...just remember what I told you.
Even if this Mr. X dog was somehow one of us...


We've already decided that we're only going to play matches against each other...
We can forget about him.
Since that's the case, he doesn't affect us.

The only one left holding the bag will be Mr. X.
Problem solved.
We can only play the number of cards we've declared.

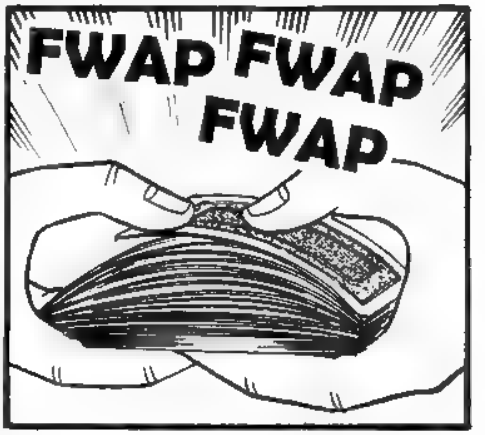
Just forget about it...
.....
Sit down, Takada ...

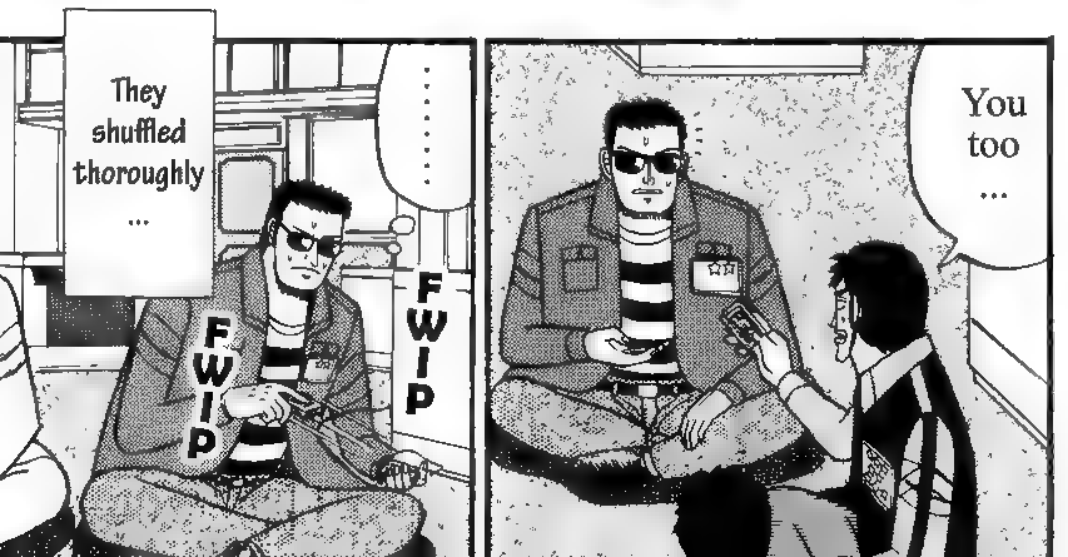
Even if someone does smoke him out...
...what would be the point?
It won't pay to go hunting for the perpetrator.
Let's just put Mr. X aside for now.

...while the time is squandered away.
We can't let ourselves get bogged down dealing with trivial problems...
FAR EAST
Right now, the most important thing is time...
While we trifled with unimportant things we'd be missing out on what really matters

Let's start ...
FWAP
Then we're all agreed ...
Alright ...
Yeah ...
Do you understand, Takada ...?
It would be utter stupidity ...

Time to shuffle!! and to deal!

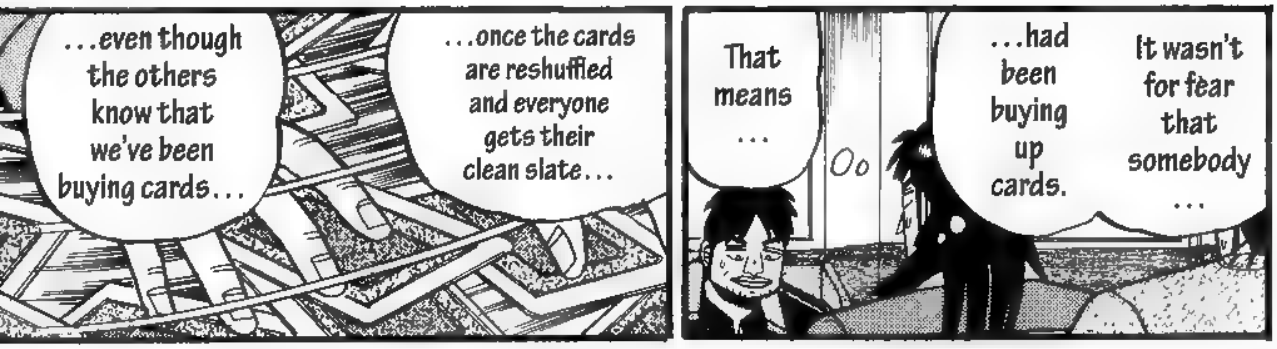




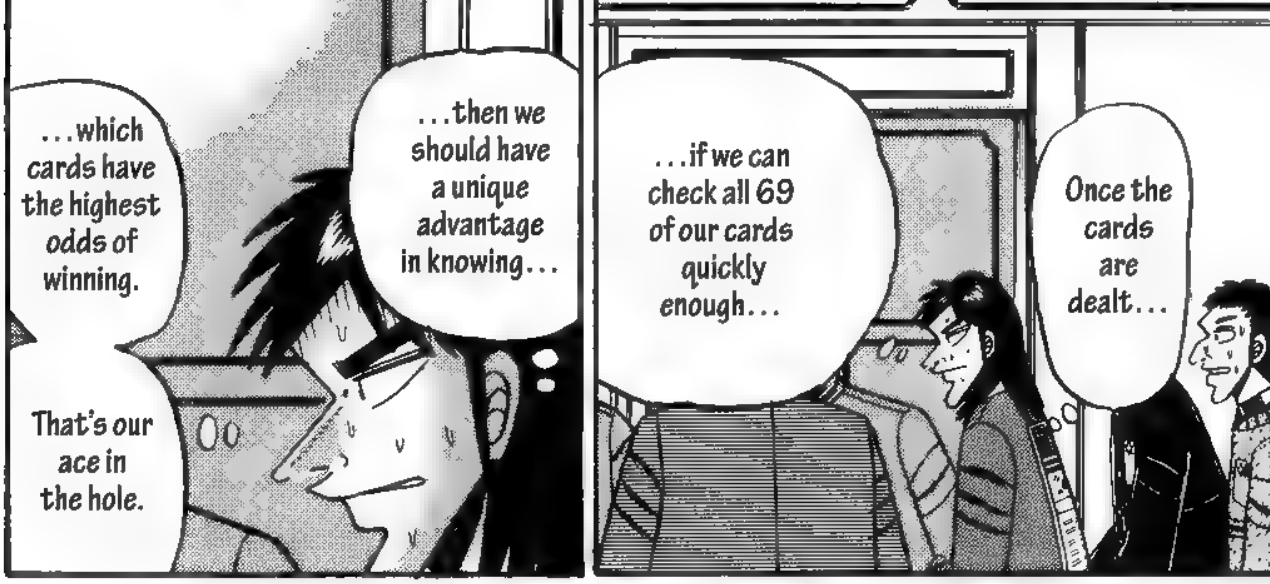
After enough of them had cut ...
...with no suspicious moves.
.....
FWAP
...the cards returned to Funai.
WHOOSH WHOOSH

...was he ready to give up.
...Kaiji had, in a sense, hit rock bottom. But by no means...
With his previous plan exposed ...
.....
WHOOSH WHOOSH
.....

...in the final stage of the game, was for fear that the others had discovered their hand...
The main reason that everyone had stopped playing...
We've still got a chance ...
The chances were slim, but still he could prevail.


...even though the others know that we've been buying cards...
...once the cards are reshuffled and everyone gets their clean slate...
That means ...
...had been buying up cards.
It wasn't for fear that somebody ...

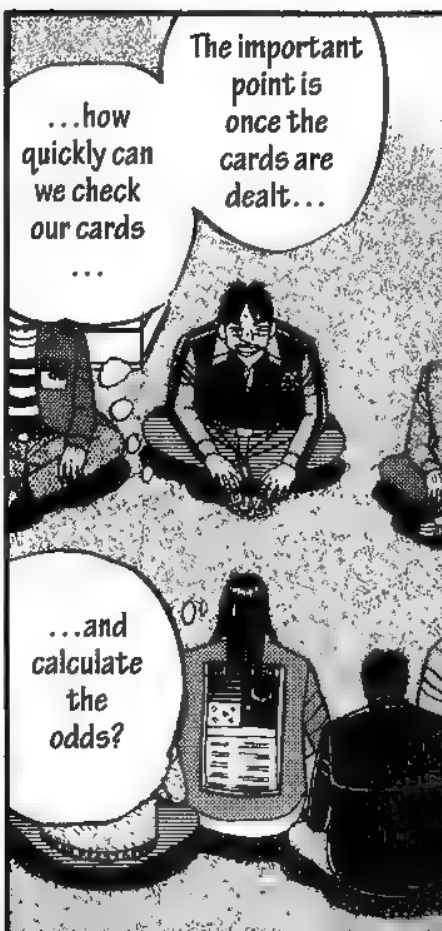
But ...
It's true, after all, that is one way of looking at things...
It's possible ...
...and they might just go into these matches believing that everyone is relying on the same even chances.
...they should believe that now their hands are secret...


...which cards have the highest odds of winning.
That's our ace in the hole.
...then we should have a unique advantage in knowing...
...if we can check all 69 of our cards quickly enough...
Once the cards are dealt...

...and have nearly an 80% chance of winning.
We can play rocks against scissors ...
...our strategy can stay the same.
For instance if we get back the same 30 rocks, 34 paper and 5 scissors back that we put in...

It still hasn't failed us...
If we're fast we can win...!

FWAP
Now then ...
...our card buying strategy !


...how quickly can we check our cards ...
The important point is once the cards are dealt...
...and calculate the odds?

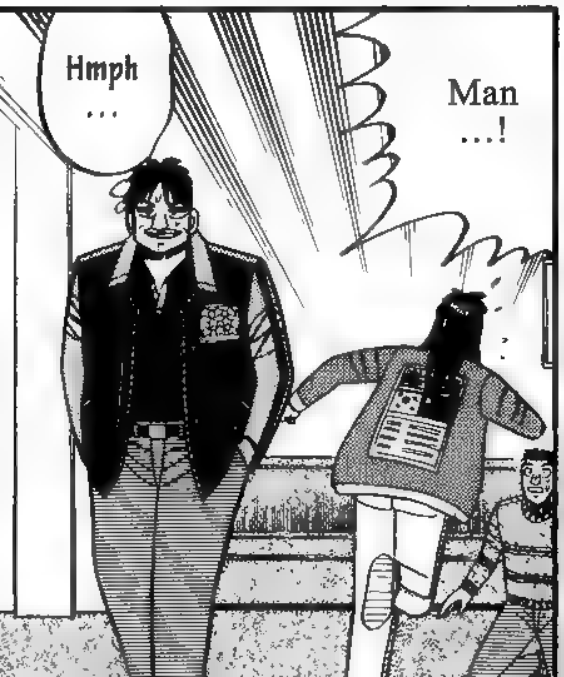
Once all the cards are dealt …
…we can go ahead and start the matches.
Got it?
Everybody hold up your fingers and show me how many cards you put in.
Time to deal …

…and 1 for the man next to you…
3 cards for you …
…and 5 for Takada …
Now then, it's 2 for me …

……
There …
…69 cards for Kaiji's group …
And finally …
FWIP
1 card …
…and 2 cards …
All done …!
……
Next is 1 card …

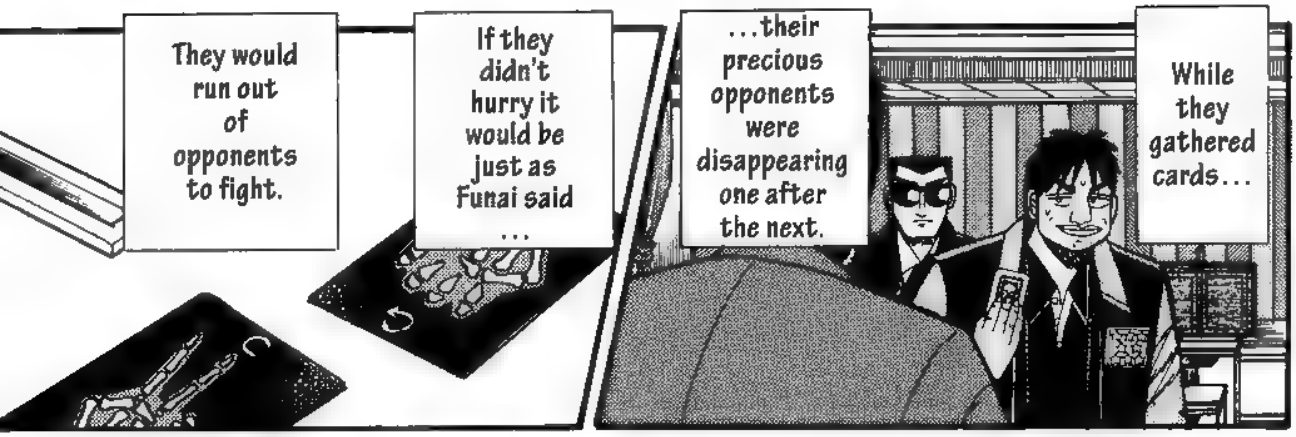
End of Chapter 38

# Chapter 39: Survival of the Fittest



No...!
No...!
No...!

It would have to wait for later.
There was no time for arguments just then.
They needed to gather their cards in a hurry ....
That came before everything else.

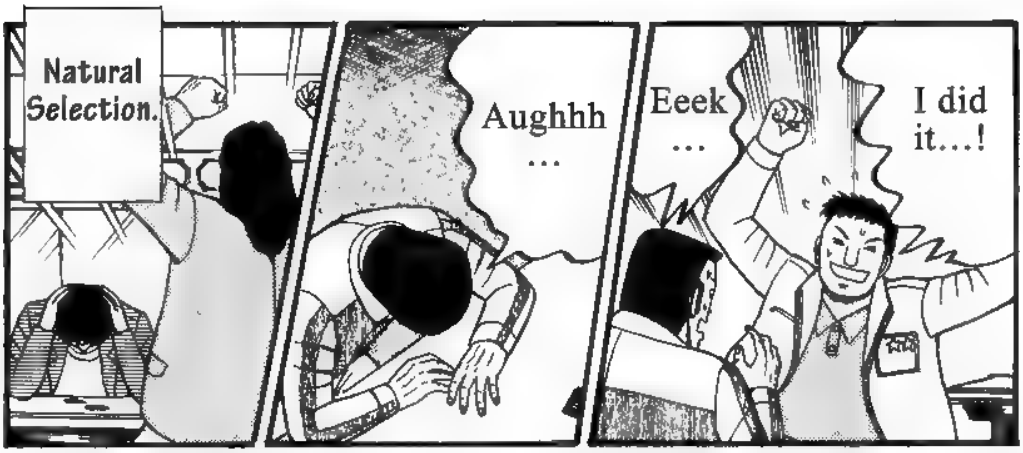

While they gathered cards...
...their precious opponents were disappearing one after the next.
If they didn't hurry it would be just as Funai said ...
They would run out of opponents to fight.

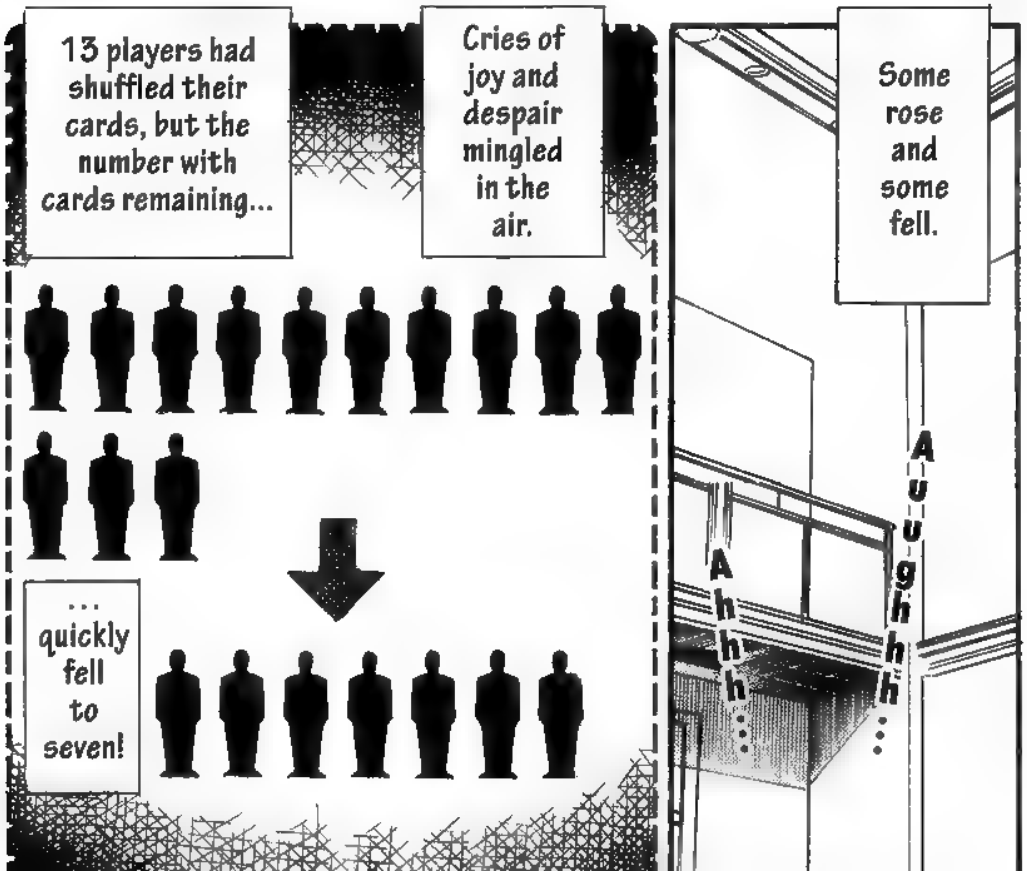
Certain defeat...!

Three matches, that's just enough ...
You numbskull ...!
We can play three matches against Mr. X.
There were 3 cards missing before.
If our opponents disappear while we're busy here...
...it'll still be ok ...
...why in the world would he play against someone who can choose from all 3 cards!?
Now that everyone knows that he's got 3 scissor cards...
...all of our opponents are gone!
Just forget about Mr. X...!
Once these ten guys are gone ...
Don't you get that ...?
Open your eyes ...!
Hehehe ...

What a joke ...
.....
STICK
Those fools ...
I should've known they weren't survivors ...
Look at them argue over something so lame.
You gotta feel bad for them ...
This is a game where only the strongest can survive...
...the foolish get eaten for breakfast.
In Limited Janken ...
Hehehe...
GLANCE
...for the strong like me.
...but the weak are meant to be food...

# The final battle!!





13 players had shuffled their cards, but the number with cards remaining...
Cries of joy and despair mingled in the air.
... quickly fell to seven!
Some rose and some fell.
Ahhhh...
Aughhh...

It had all happened in a flash ...
ざわ・・ざわ・・・
.....

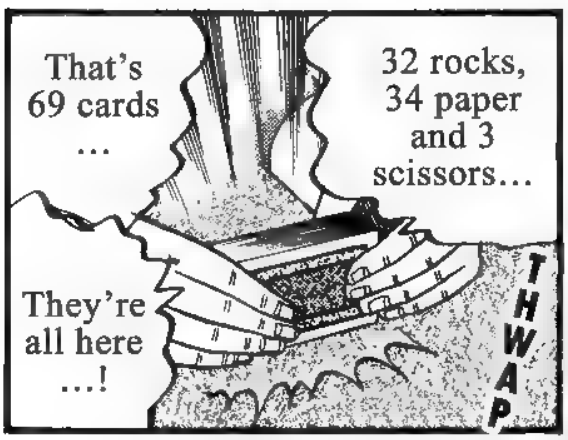
Rocks are okay ...
Scissors too...
The first minute after that shuffle was truly a matter of life and death...

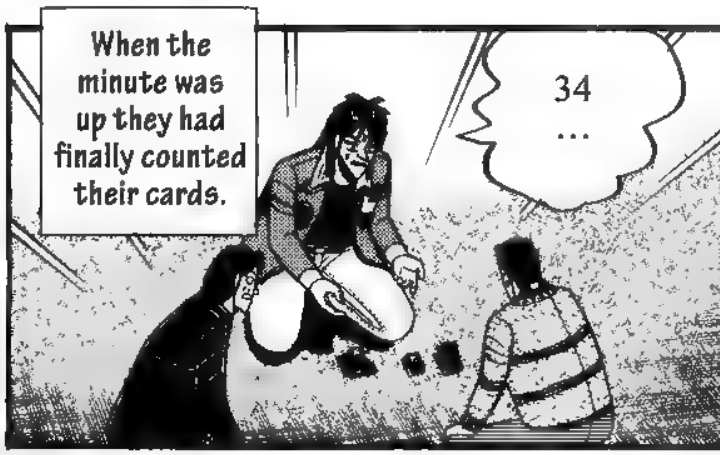
ざわ・・
...in the twinkling of an eye...

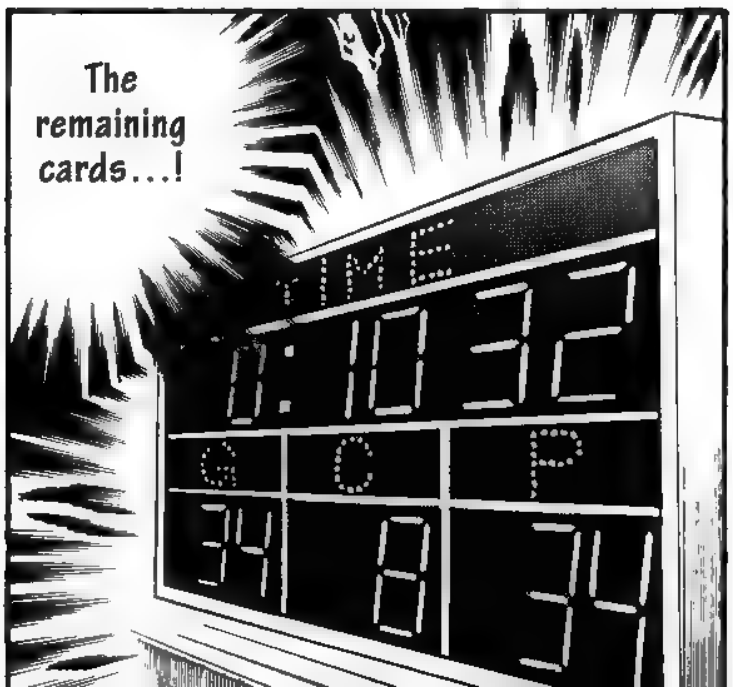
They were too late for the feast ...!
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP

...but Kaiji's group had lost out on their chance to rise up.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6...
That just leaves paper ...!



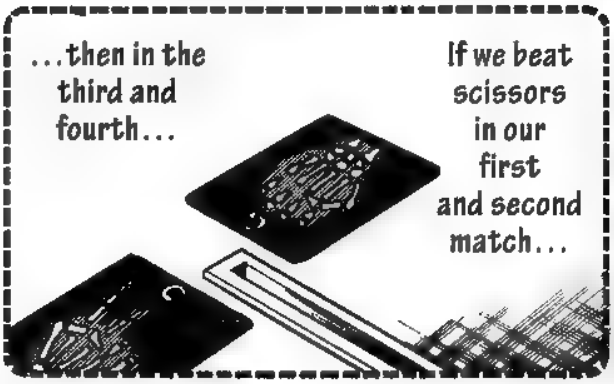




...the scoreboard!

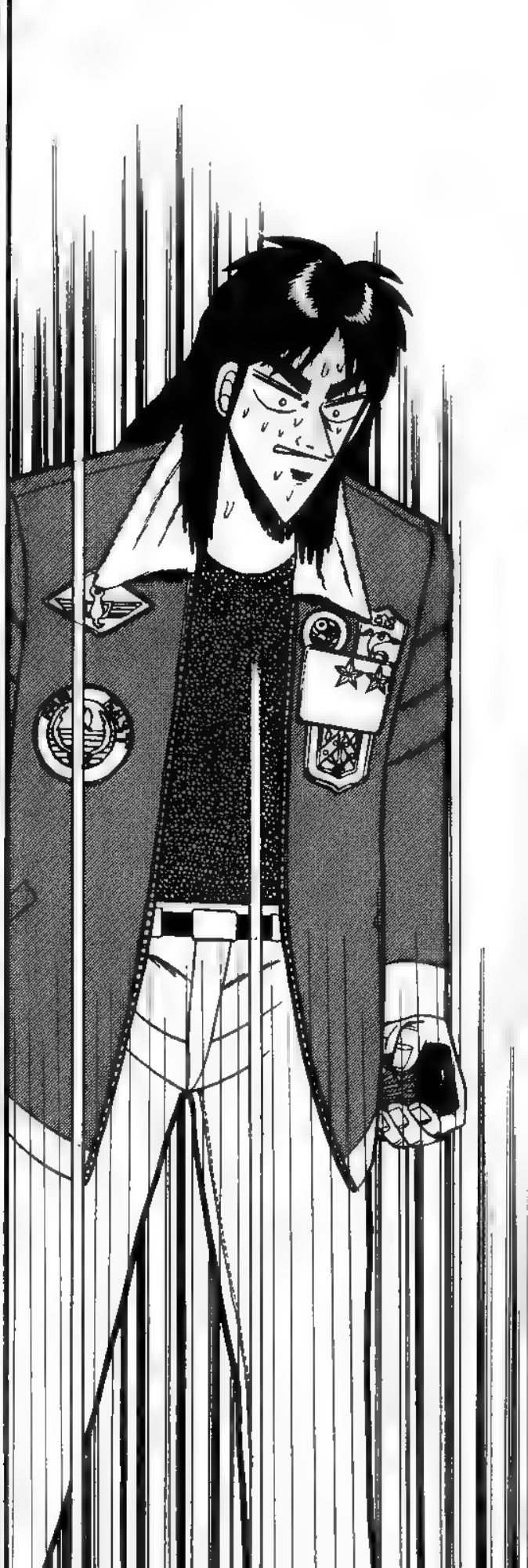
Ahh ...!
34 rocks, 8 scissors and 34 paper...
And since ...
... we've got 34 paper ...
... that leaves ...
If we ignore Mr. X's cards ...
...paper must've run out!
If we play rock...
...2 rocks and 2 scissors on the floor.

...we can't lose!

...but if all goes well we could even take four straight wins!
As long as we can find opponents we'll get at least two wins and two draws...


...then in the third and fourth...
If we beat scissors in our first and second match...

That's four wins...
...we can play paper against the remaining rocks.



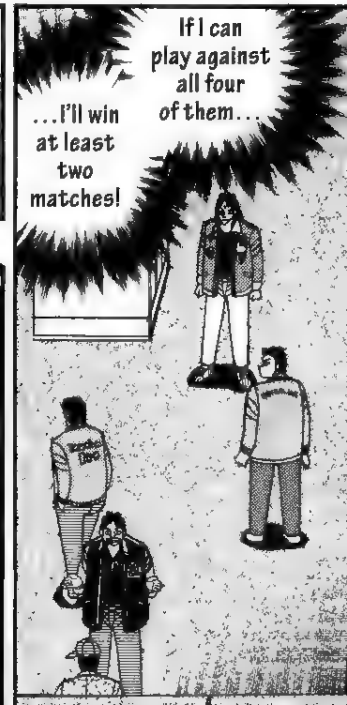
We can still take 9 stars!!
Kaiji-san...
.....
Kaiji may have been slow to start...
...but he still had a slim chance remaining.
.....
Here I go ...
.....
If I can play, I can win ...!
We still have a chance to take 9 stars ...!
The problem is whether I can arrange the matches ...
.....
4 cards remain.
Funai ...
And the man sitting down...
... wearing the glasses.
Those two over there...

They each have 1 card...!

...but there's no use sitting around with my hands in my pockets.

It might be impossible ...
.....

But ...


If I can play against all four of them...
...I'll win at least two matches!

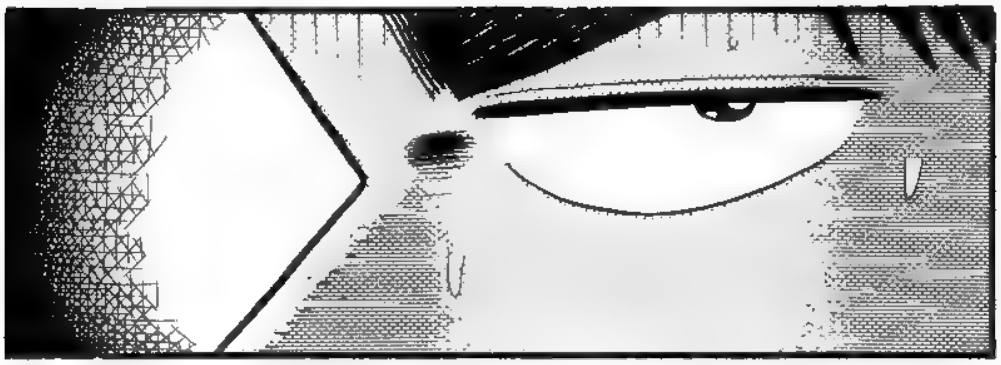
There's no time for strategy ...
...I'll just have to dive in...

I have to make my move...!

The worst scenario would be if the four of them...
...should play against each other.

...will be nearly impossible...!
...pulling off all four matches ....

.....



and go out with a bang!

Wanna play …?
……
……
……
Even if you sit here forever …
…it's still not gonna do you any good.
……
Alright …
……
You have to do it sooner or later …
Right …?
Huh …?

Huh …?
What's wrong with you, four-eyes, are you crazy…!?
SWOOSH
Hold on a sec…!
They've been buying up cards, so they can figure out which cards…
Did you forget what those three have been up to…?
You're an idiot …!
You gonna play against him…!?
They've got so many cards that they can guess our hands as well.
…have the best chance of winning …
Ahh …!
You'd almost certainly lose …!
It'd be like jumping off a bridge …

ざわ・・

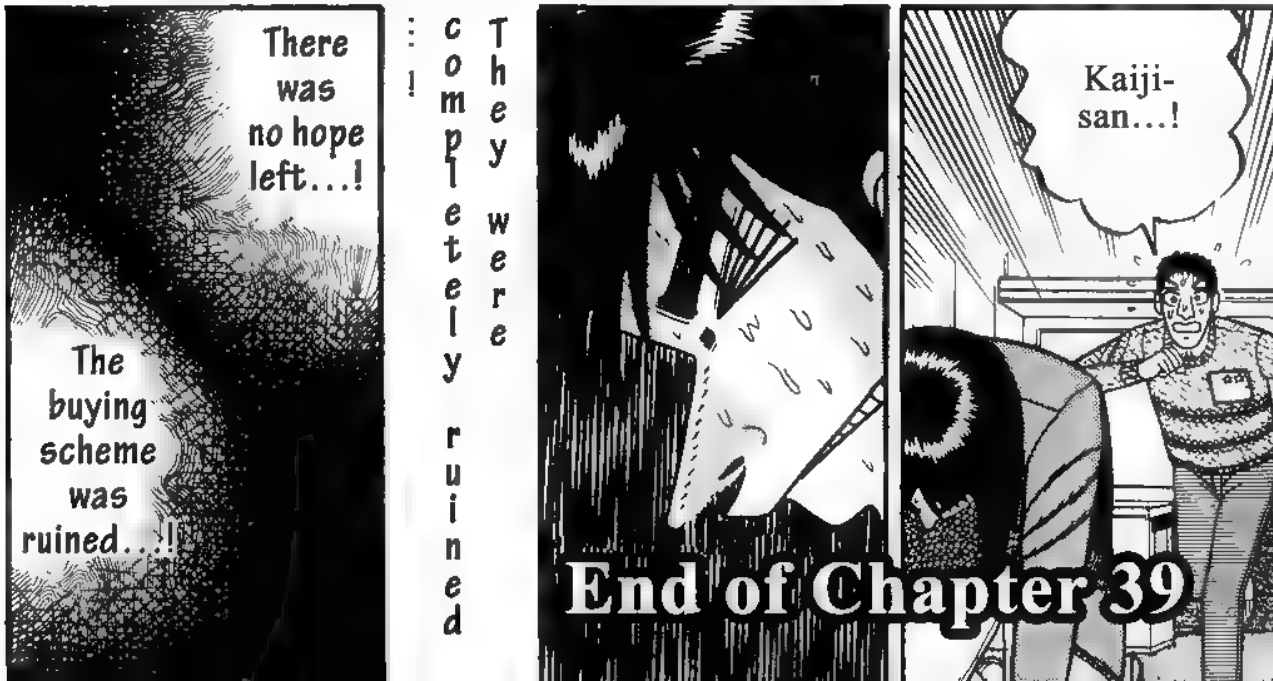
Ngh
...
Ahh
...
ざわ・ざわ・

Not after this...
No one is gonna play us now...

It's over...!

We're ruined ...!

Ahh ...!




End of Chapter 39

# Chapter 40: Exposed

They were ruined!!

The buying scheme was ruined!!!

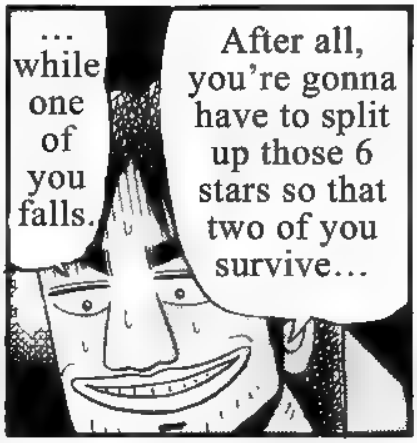
Nine minutes and fifty seconds left!!!

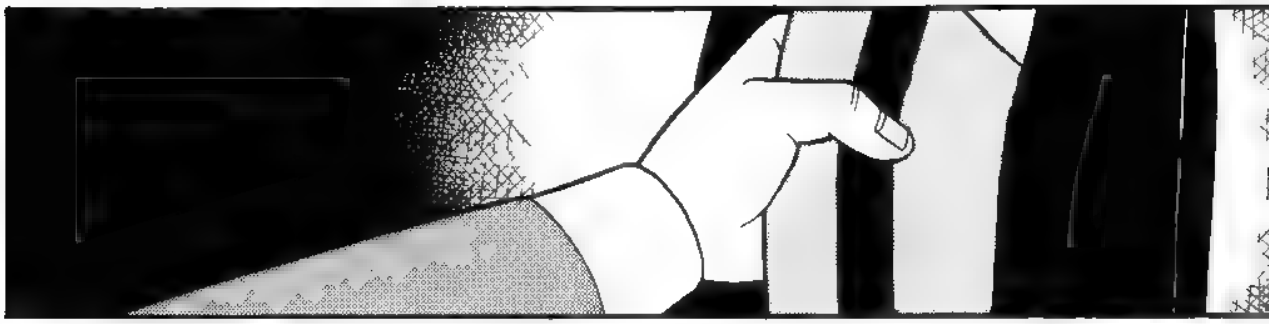
…the hull fell clean off of your plan.
The second that everybody knew what you had been up to …
It's only natural that you sink.
You should have seen this coming …
I don't know why you're acting so surprised …!
You idiot …!

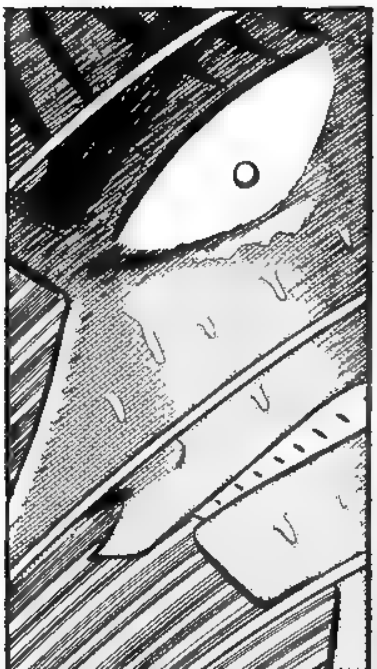
…while you tear each other's throats out.
Well I hope you three are still getting along so well…

You had some nerve thinking you could pull this off.
You had this coming.
Didn't you …?

: Hehehe


… while one of you falls.
After all, you're gonna have to split up those 6 stars so that two of you survive…





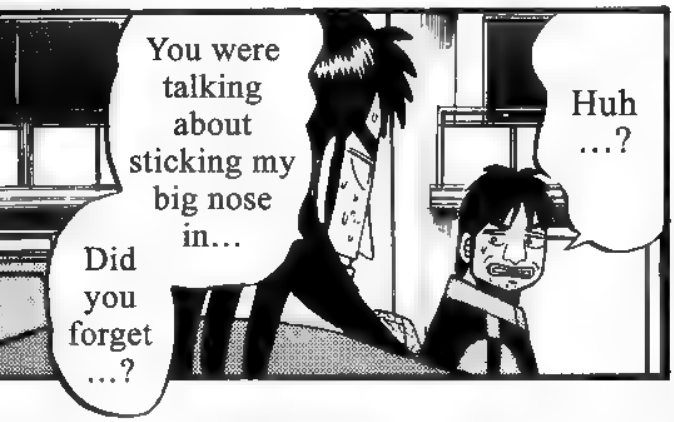
What do you want now ….?
What …?

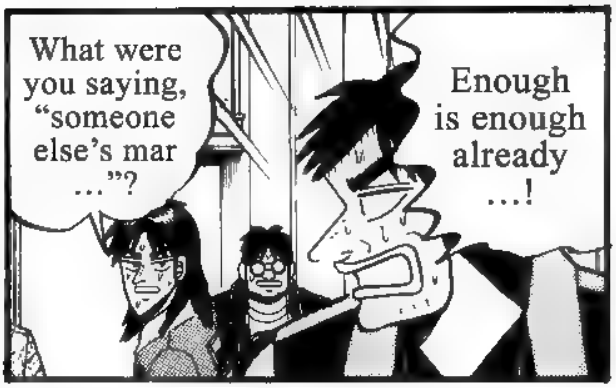
HYAH
WHIFF
Hah ...!
Whaddya think you're doing ...?
WHAM
Hey ....!
Hey ...!
Knock it off ...!
Hyah ...!

You no-good, rotten ...
All you know is dirty tricks ...!
POW
Hyaaahhh ...!
Back off ...!
Knock it off!
You filthy ...!
Hmph ...
.....
SLAM

I said back off...!
Urrk ...!
Hey now...
Kaiji-san...!
COUGH
COUGH
Kaiji-san...!
I was just defending myself.
Don't misunderstand me...
COUGH
You gotta be crazy, crying about dirty tricks ...!
You're out of your cotton-picking mind...!
Hey, hey ...!
Bunch of dirty tricks ...
SOB
SOB
SOB

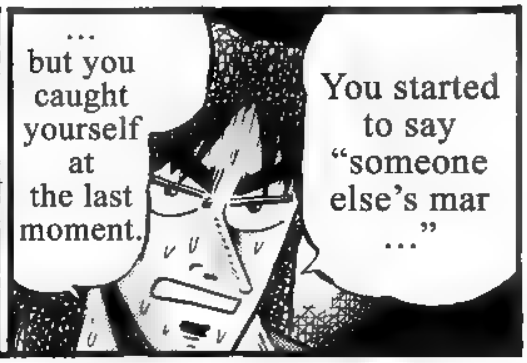
… the only reason this happened …
First of all …
… you stupid brat!
There's no such thing as dirty tricks down here...
… your big nose in …
… and stuck …
… is that you went ahead …
……
You loser …!
It serves you right …!
… and tried to steal someone else's mar… opponent.
Wait …!
Just leave that idiot to fend for himself …
Come on …

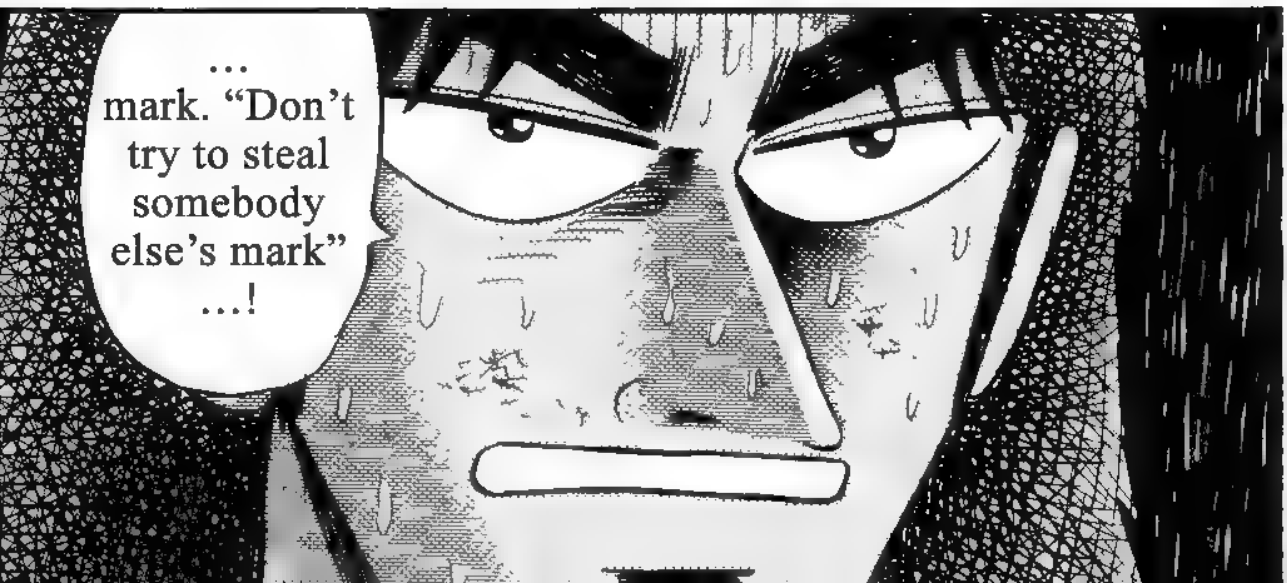

You were talking about sticking my big nose in…
Did you forget …?
Huh …?

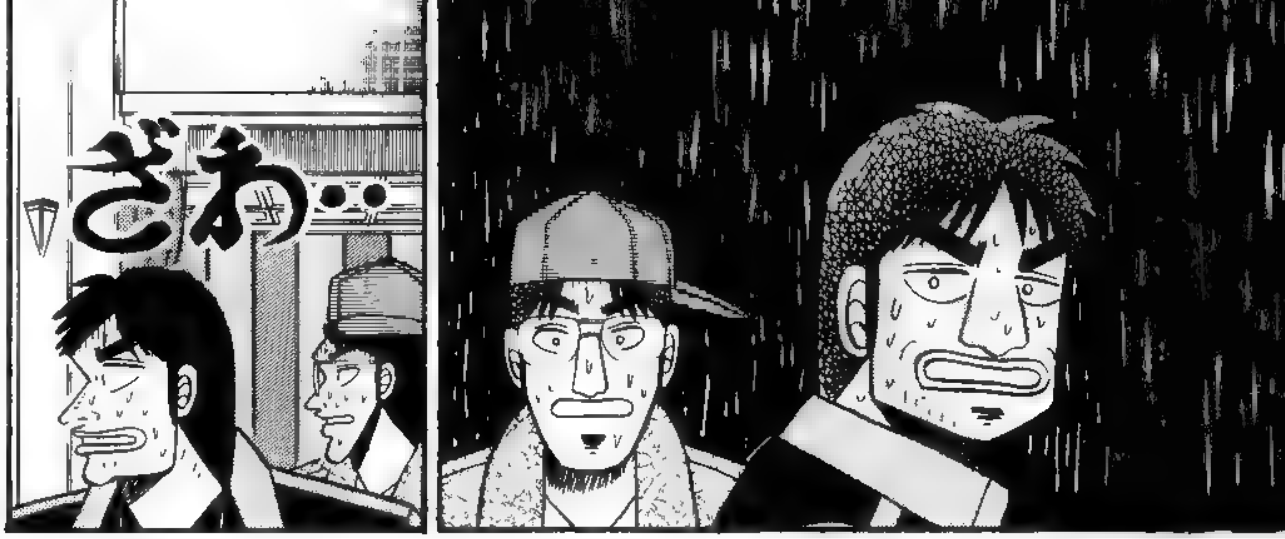

What were you saying, "someone else's mar …"?
Enough is enough already …!

……

Somebody else's …


… but you caught yourself at the last moment.
You started to say "someone else's mar …"


… mark. "Don't try to steal somebody else's mark" …!


ざわ

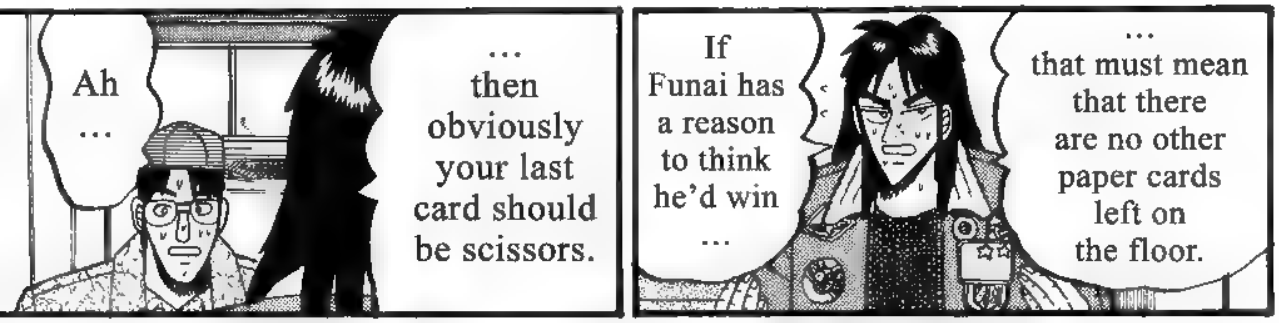
You said it …!
I-I don't know even know what you're talking about …
ざわ‥ざわ‥
Moron …!
What …!?

You've figured out a surefire way to beat him …
In other words …
… you know something we don't!
That must mean …
You were about to say someone else's mark …

… you dealt them so that you were guaranteed to win!
When you re-dealt the cards …
… you've been plotting something!
… after all that talk about shaking hands and blank slates …

Your last card is a scissors, right…?
Huh …?
You, in the glasses …!
You're babbling …!

…and since the scoreboard is showing 34 paper …
We've got 34 paper cards in our hand…
You don't have to tell me.
Wh-What makes you think that …


Ah …
… then obviously your last card should be scissors.
If Funai has a reason to think he'd win …
… that must mean that there are no other paper cards left on the floor.

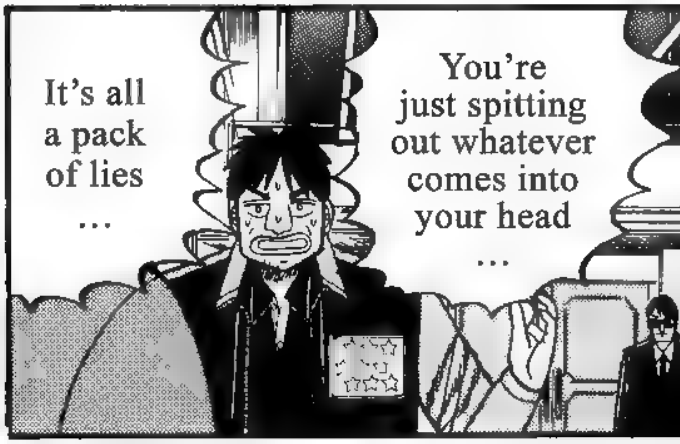
Hmph …
ざわ…
Ahh …
……
… then I'm out of line …
… and it's all been a mistake.
Of course, if your card is rock …

Who here played Funai last …!?
I've had about enough of you spitting your lies …!
Get real …!
Well then, it looks like I know what I'm talking about.
……
What card did you play when you lost against him …?
And you lost, right?
……
It was me …
……
ざわ‥
Dos /V
Scissors …
……
You think this is coincidence …?
ざわ‥
ざわ
You see …!?

They weren't able to choose.
And they were both left with only 1 card …
Your two opponents …or at last the two you tried to play …
… were both holding scissors.
There would have been no guarantee that they played scissors.
He didn't want …
If they had 2 or more they could've still chosen which to play first…
When Funai was dealing the cards, he marked the rock and the scissors cards …!
Once I lay it out, it's all perfectly clear …
But it's clear …!
…to risk anything to chance.
You filthy dog …!
……
He's betrayed us …!
He's just a fraud …
Ngh …

Shut your mouth …!

You don't have a single shred a proof …!


It's all a pack of lies …
You're just spitting out whatever comes into your head …

It's no wonder no one will play you …!
It's ridiculous …!

SHF
Let's go, four-eyes …

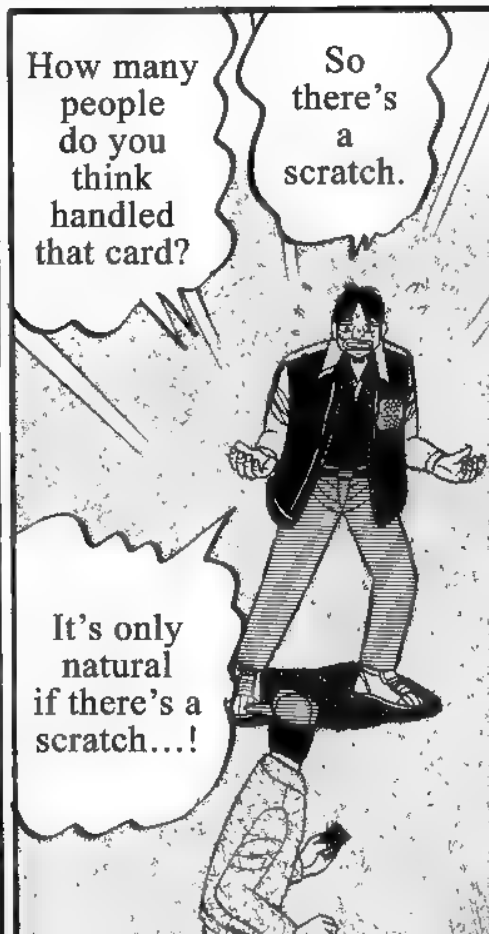
Malicious fantasy!
It's all a hypothesis …
You're making this up out of whole cloth, trying to paint me as the villain…

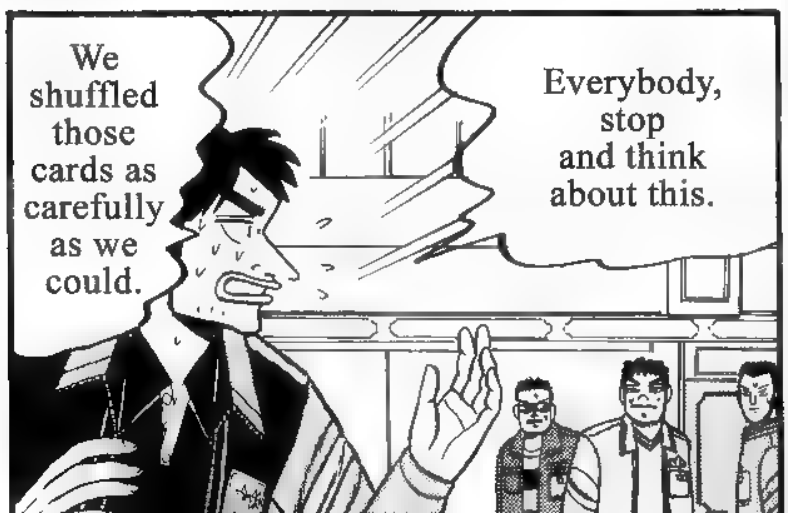
Falling for nonsense like that …
Have it your way …
SHF
SHF
Tsk …
Hey …
Huh …?
He's just bitter because he's lost …
He's making this up …!
You've got it all wrong.
Wait a sec …!
Ahh …!
Hmph …
He's the real fraud …!
He's desperate. He'll say anything!

Ngh …
You see …?
It looks like somebody scratched the card …
It's a mark …
It's there …!
FORCE

You gotta be kidding …!

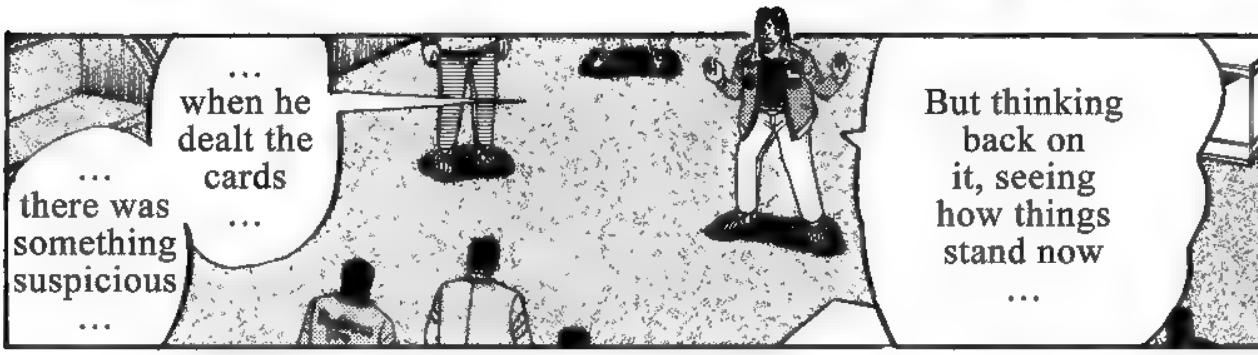
You're just letting Kaiji mess with your head!
Once you get suspicious anything could look like a mark…!


So there's a scratch.
How many people do you think handled that card?
It's only natural if there's a scratch…!

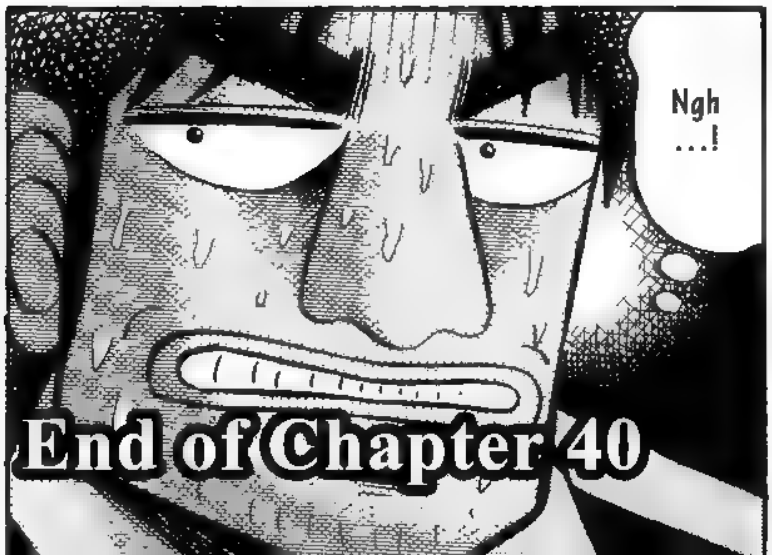

We shuffled those cards as carefully as we could.
Everybody, stop and think about this.

So did the guy in the sunglasses …!
Takada cut the cards!
… it would be pointless in the end!
Even if I tried to pull a fast one …
A magician is precisely what you are.
I'm not a magician!
… and made sure my opponents got marked scissor cards instead?
Just how do you suppose I gave myself rocks …
Listen, everyone …!
Huh …?
He's been practicing card tricks…sleight of hand…before coming on the boat …
… that the game would be "Limited Janken," using cards.
That means he knew in advance …
He's a repeat player!

...
I didn't notice what he was doing.
At the time ...
It was subtle.
Hard enough to completely hoodwink amateurs like us.
... and practicing hard.


... there was something suspicious ...
... when he dealt the cards ...
But thinking back on it, seeing how things stand now ...

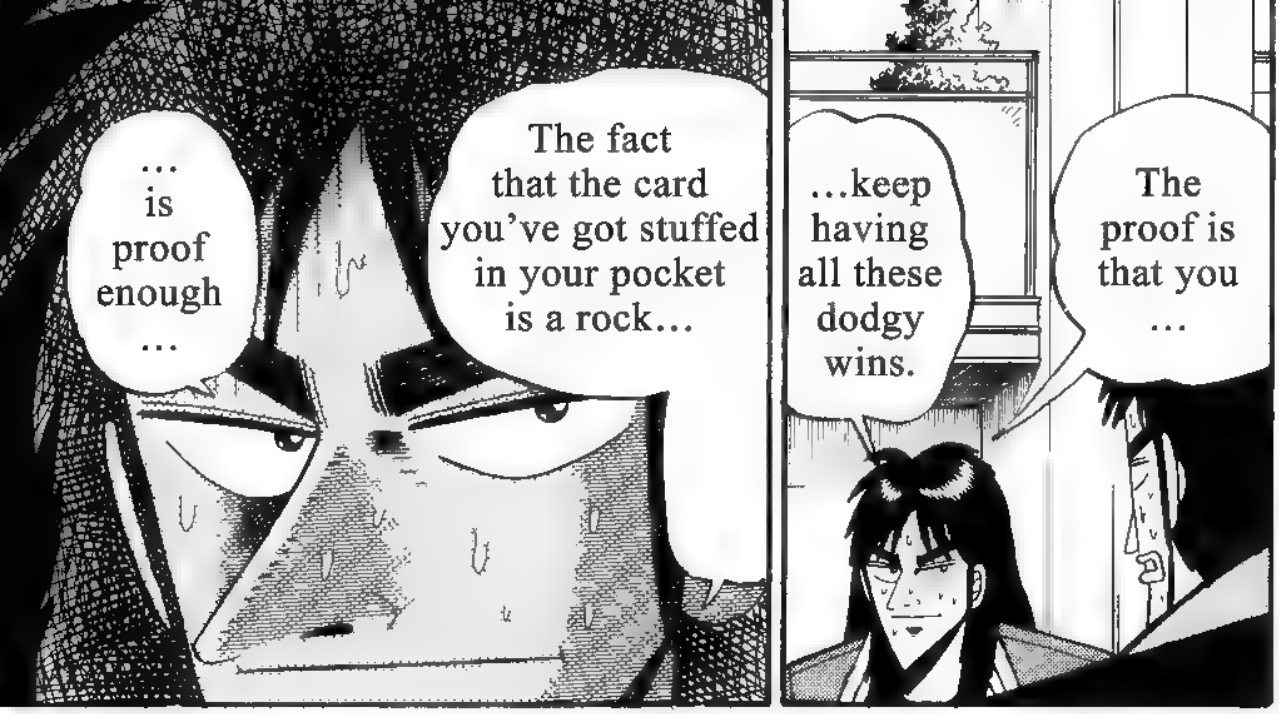
.....

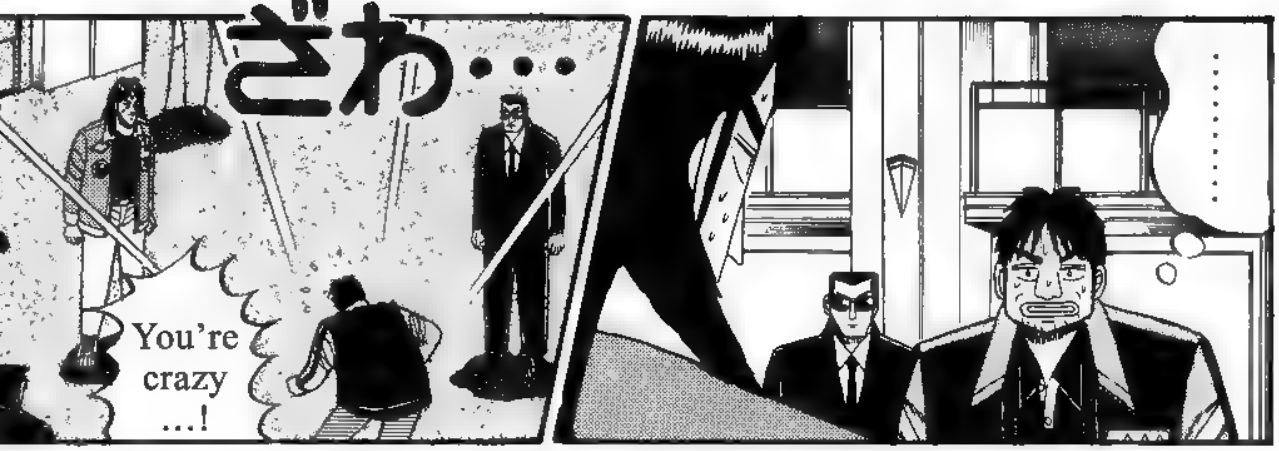

Ngh ...!
End of Chapter 40

Actually ...it was all suspicious!
He had plenty of opportunities to cheat ...!

# Chapter 41: Repudiation

You think you can say whatever you like then walk away ...?
Get real ...!
You claim I did all this terrible stuff ...
Go ahead, say it ...!
When did I cheat ...?
What was so suspicious then ...?
I've got proof enough.
Hmph ...
.....
... but if you've got proof then why don't you say it!?

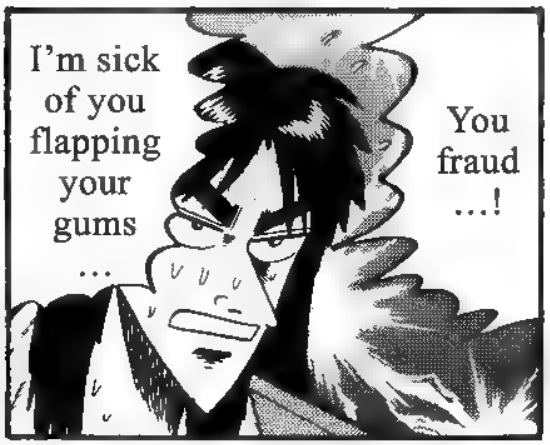

The proof is that you …
…keep having all these dodgy wins.
The fact that the card you've got stuffed in your pocket is a rock…
… is proof enough …


……
ざわ…
You're crazy …!

This is mad …!
It's all fantasy …!
You're just trying to find somebody else to blame …!
Aren't you …!
You, in the suit …
Are you just gonna let him get away with this …?

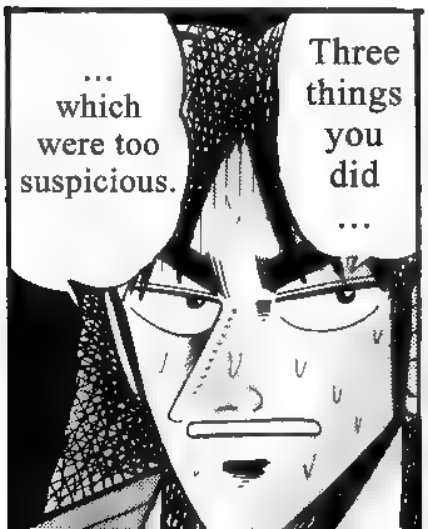
Quit babbling …!
You can't let him interfere with the game …!
This is slander …!
He's got it out for me.

Listen then, …!
Any objective way you look at it, you're clearly as dirty as they come.
FAR EAST AIR PORTS


I'm sick of you flapping your gums …
You fraud …!

ざわ・・・

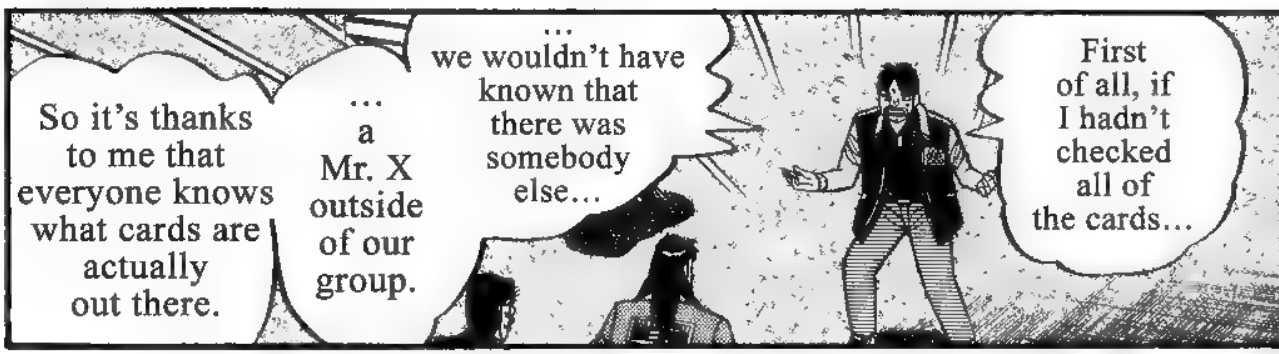
I'll talk if you want …
I'll give you my reasons …

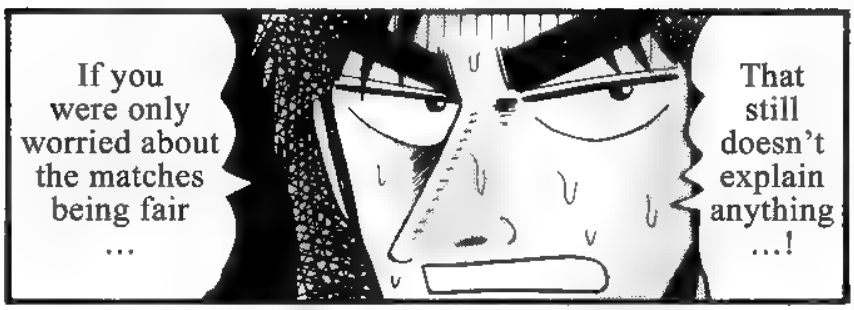

Three things you did …
… which were too suspicious.

Your reasons …?
Yeah …

…
and gathered everyone together
…
In the very beginning when you first made your friendly little pact…
Let's go in order.
Number 1.
……
…
when you collected everyone's cards
…
It was already getting down to the wire
…
Huh …?
That was point number 1
…
…
you counted out the rock, paper and scissor cards one at a time.
But for some reason
…
Why would you even bother …!?
What did it matter how many of each card there were …!?
What reason did you have to do it …!?
How was that suspicious …?

All you needed to do is check how many cards each person held …
… and then deal them right back.
That would have been perfectly fair.
But for some reason …
You're over-thinking this…!


First of all, if I hadn't checked all of the cards…
… we wouldn't have known that there was somebody else…
… a Mr. X outside of our group.
So it's thanks to me that everyone knows what cards are actually out there.


That still doesn't explain anything …!
If you were only worried about the matches being fair …

If I hadn't checked …
It was unnecessary …!

The real reason that you checked the cards …
… had nothing to do with fairness …

… you wouldn't have needed to count numbers for the different cards.
Which means …
AIR FORCE

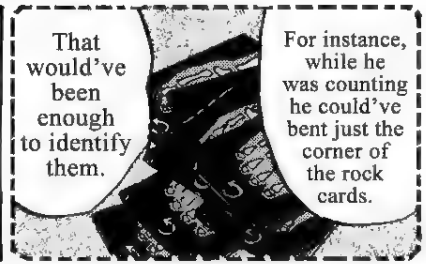
You had your own motives …
Your own reason …!

You're crazy …!
And that reason is …
Ngh …!
……

You were marking them …
… marking the cards for your own use …
… the marks.
This is all made up…!
That reason is …

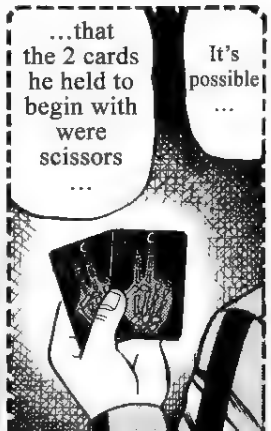
ざわ
……

But …
It's entirely possible.
And he could have scratched the scissors.


That would've been enough to identify them.
For instance, while he was counting he could've bent just the corner of the rock cards.

ざわ
ざわ

In any case …
…and he had marked them long before any of us had come to an agreement.


…that the 2 cards he held to begin with were scissors …
It's possible …

… some scissor cards marked up in advance.
Perhaps he even had …

It is.
It isn't possible …!
It's a mistake …!

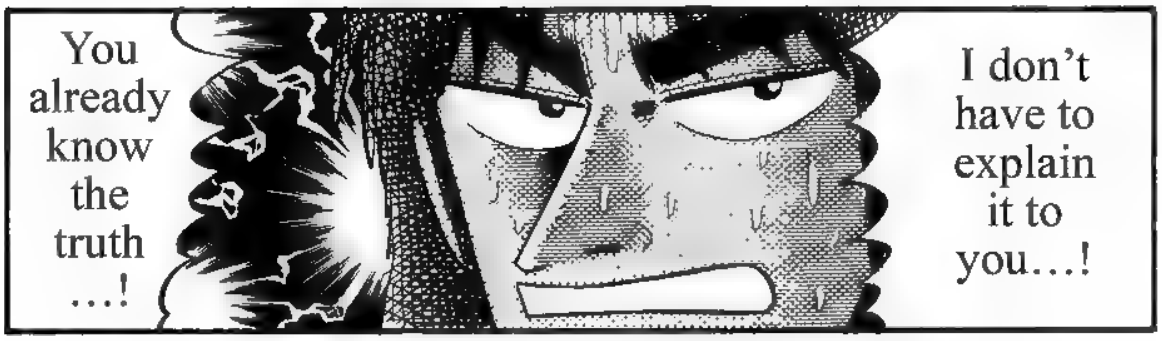
H-Hold on …!
You lying snake …!

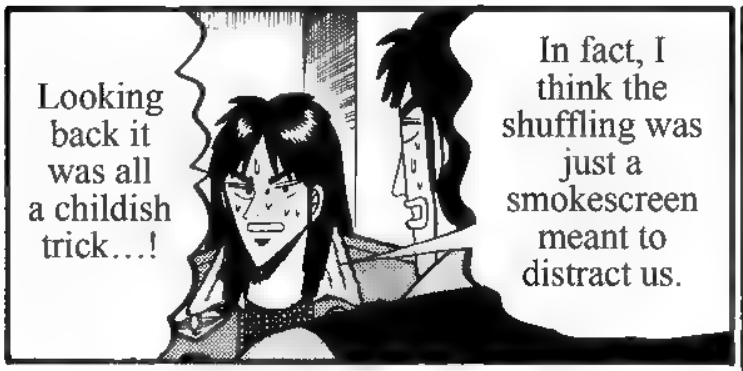
Get real …!

…he had plenty of opportunity to mark both rock and scissors!
…the rest would've been easy.
As long as he marked just 2 cards each from rock and scissors…
That's the clear, unvarnished truth…!
…but then dealt the rocks to himself …
He just acted as if he were cutting randomly…
Ngh …!

How is any of that "easy"?
You can't just say whatever you like ...!
Hold it right there ...!
...and the scissors to his targets ...
Still ...
Whether it was possible or not...
Even if most of what you said is true...
...that I just didn't have the opportunity to do it!
...that doesn't change the fact ...
Hehehe ...
I didn't control what happened to them ...!
... shuffled those cards.
All of us ...
Like I said earlier ...

Shut your mouth …!
You filthy punk …!
Ngh …
You're shameless... completely shamelessly …
You should be quiet …!

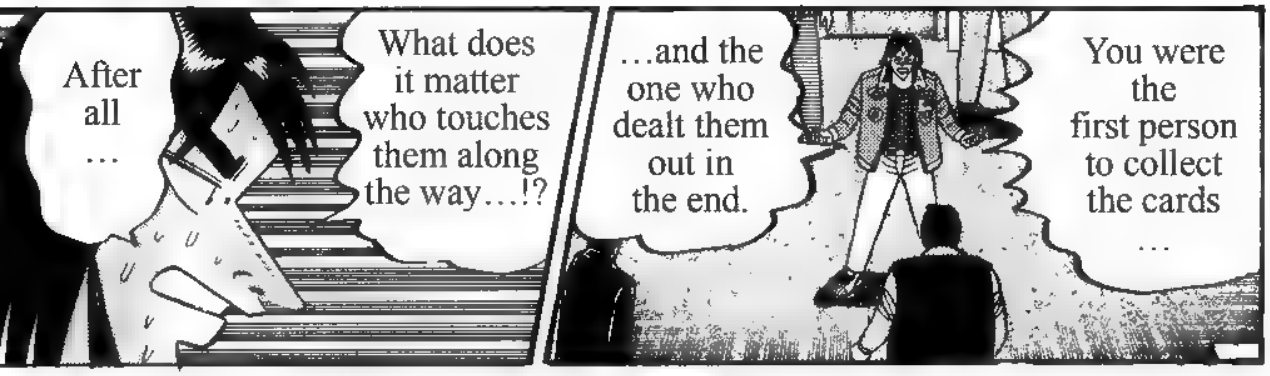

You already know the truth …!
I don't have to explain it to you…!

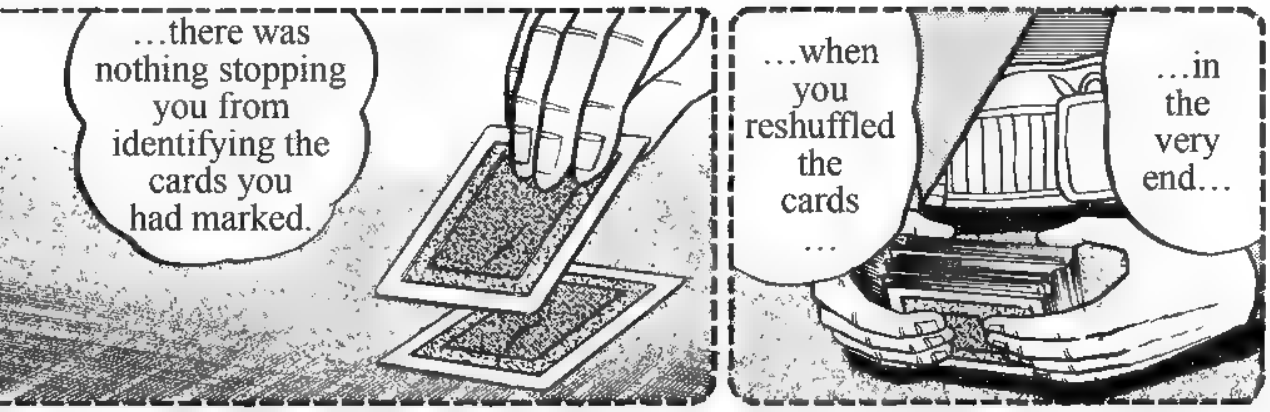

Looking back it was all a childish trick…!
In fact, I think the shuffling was just a smokescreen meant to distract us.

Whoever touches the cards, no matter how many times they cut or shuffle…
… none of that matters!

…of covering up your tracks.
Having everyone cut the cards was your way…
FORCE

But I'm right, aren't I...!?
You've got some nerve ...
...!
It was all an act to keep us from getting suspicious!


After all ...
What does it matter who touches them along the way...!?
...and the one who dealt them out in the end.
You were the first person to collect the cards ...


...there was nothing stopping you from identifying the cards you had marked.
...when you reshuffled the cards ...
...in the very end...

Ngh ...!
Was there ...!?

The way you shuffled at the end…!
Let's move onto the second point …
You're just trying to paint everything I do as malicious …
This doesn't mean a thing …!
This is nonsense …

…with your hands, like this.
You scattered the cards out on the floor and then shuffled them together …

It was so everyone could see, fair and square…
What do you mean …?
Huh … ?
Why would you shuffle them like that…?

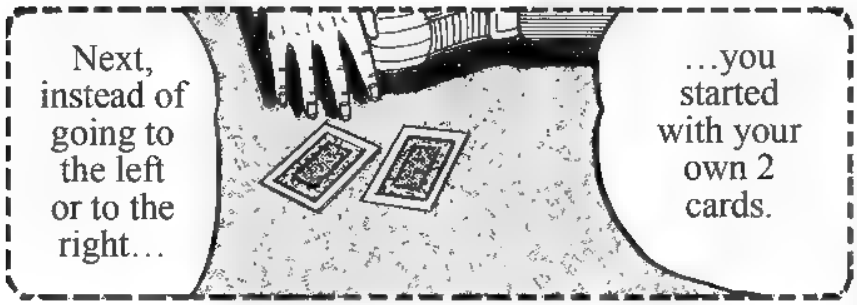
…but that wouldn't have worked for your plan…
The normal way to shuffle would be to cut the cards like this…
Get real …!
I was making sure the cards got mixed up good…

Searching for the marked rocks and scissors…
…then sorting them out.
…you were sorting them…
…while you were pretending to mix the cards, the truth is…
In other words …
Not for your final shuffle at least …

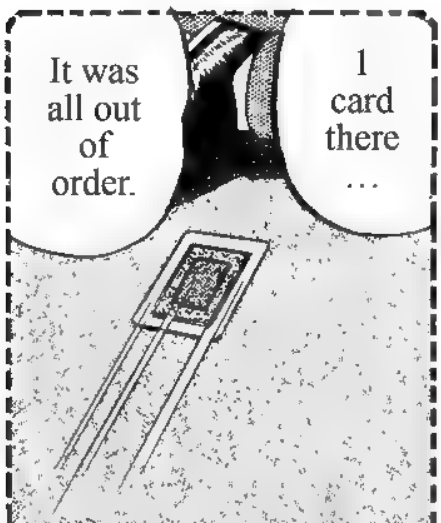
I've had enough of your paranoia …!
You shut it…!
Shut it…!
Th-That's crazy talk…!

Alright then …
You could find Mother Theresa guilty if you wanted to...!
You're just seeing what you want to see.
You're twisted, you know that? You're sick…!

…and most suspicious point of all!
That's the last …
Huh …?
Why did you deal in random order…?


Next, instead of going to the left or to the right…
…you started with your own 2 cards.

Once the shuffling was over…
..and you dealt the cards


It was all out of order.
1 card there …

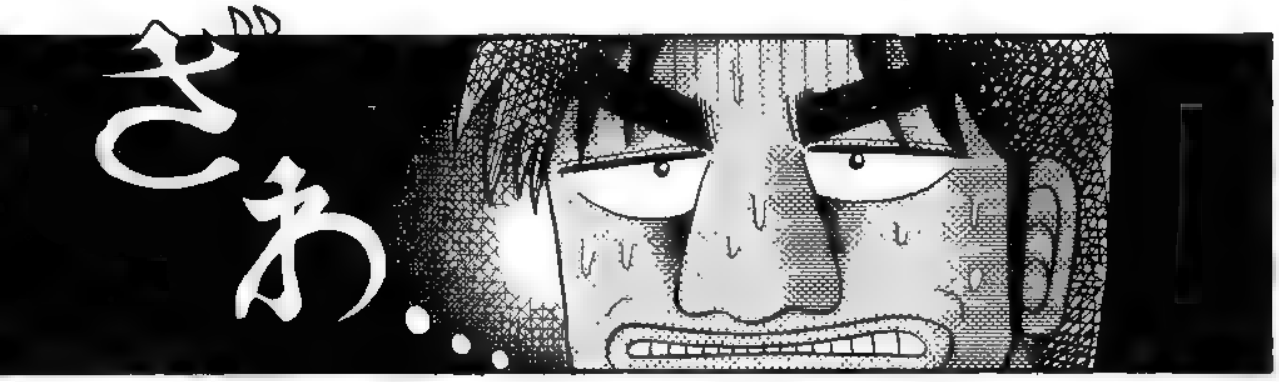
2 cards here …
You dealt randomly …

Whaddya mean why …?
Why would you deal that way …?
Why …?
There only one obvious reason…
It's obvious …!
No, you had a reason …!
It was just random …
ざわ……
…for you to deal the cards in that order!
The reason is …
……

...you wanted to deal those marked cards...
...to the guys you were targeting !

Ngh ...!
Or do you have some other explanation ...!?
End of Chapter 41

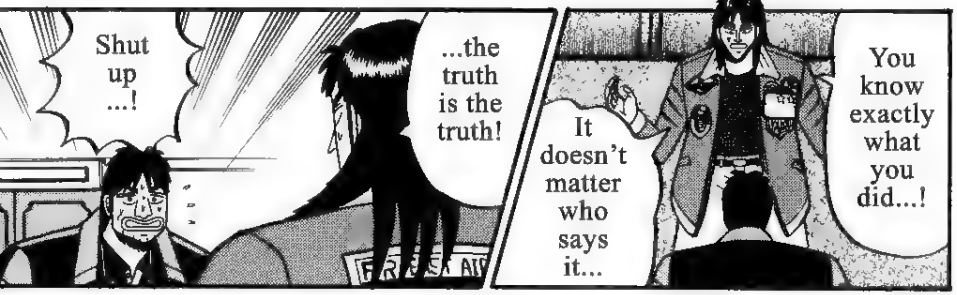
ざわ・ざわ・
……

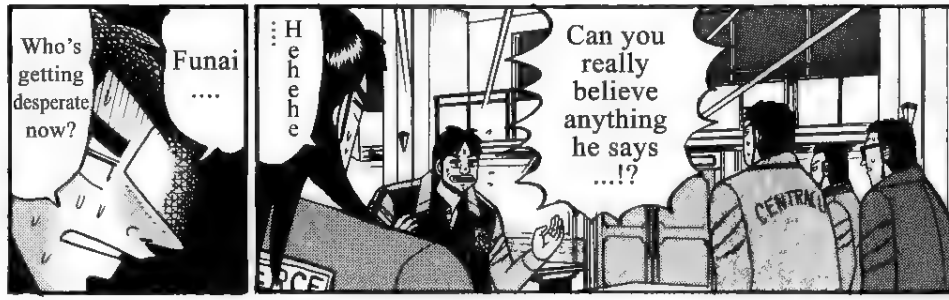

ざわ…

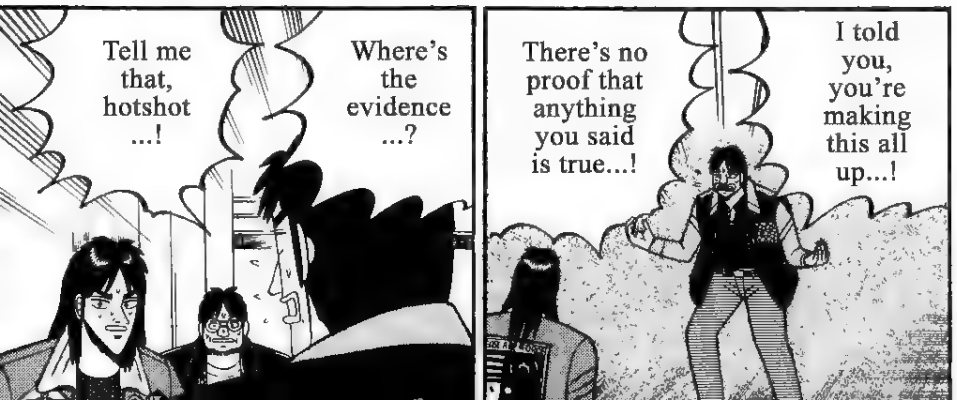
You're crazy ...!
……

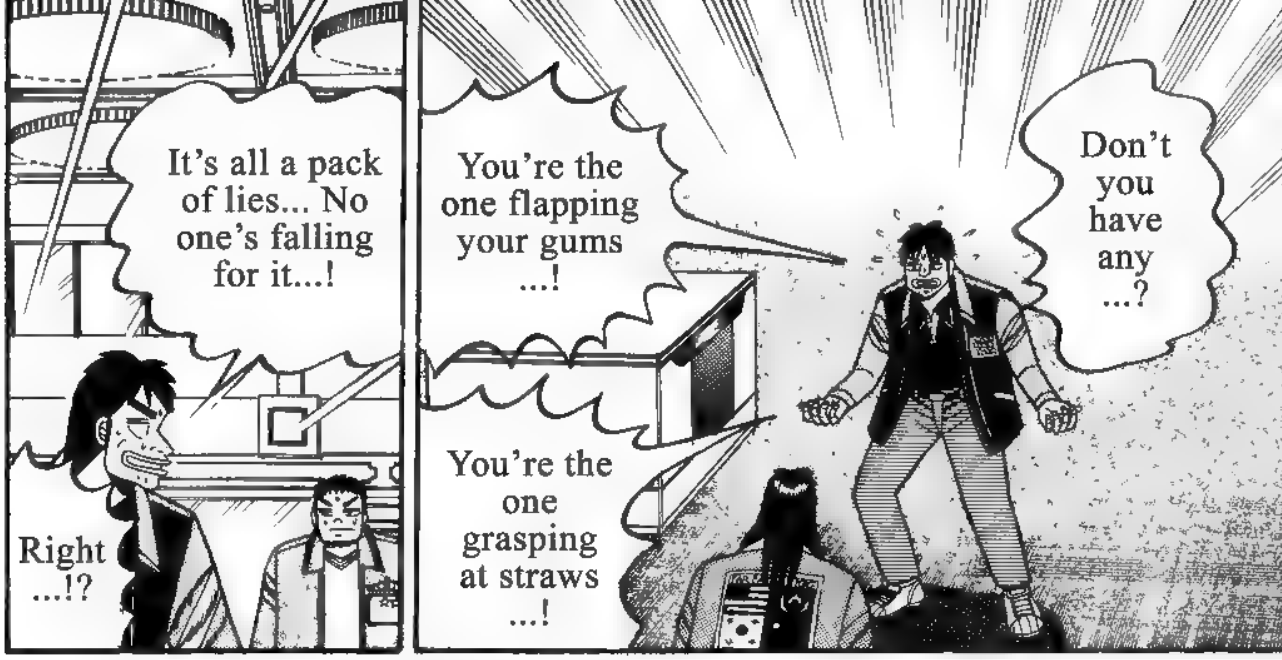
He's desperate. He'll say anything ...
Don't let him fool you ...!
This is ludicrous ...!
I didn't do anything. This is just a frame job...
It's a sneaky trick ...!
You just want revenge because I exposed your buying scheme ...
You're making this up ...!

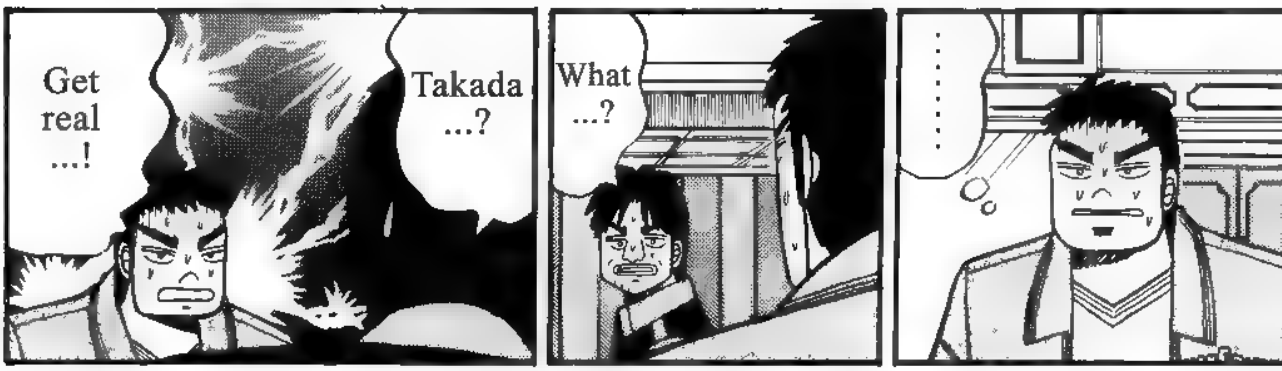
# Chapter 42: Hexed





Tell me that, hotshot ...!
Where's the evidence ...?
There's no proof that anything you said is true...!
I told you, you're making this all up...!

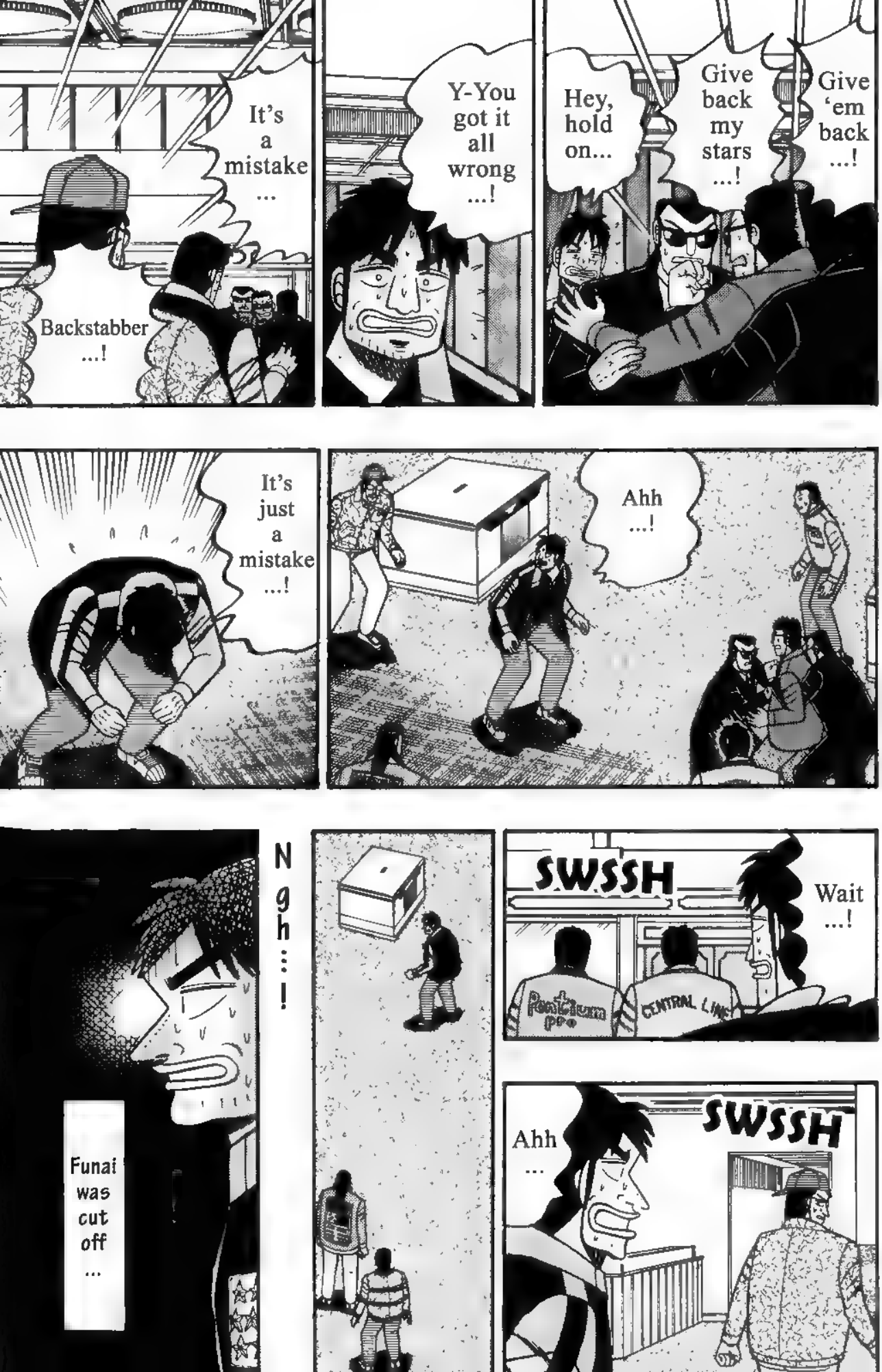

It's all a pack of lies... No one's falling for it...!
Right ...!?
You're the one flapping your gums ...!
You're the one grasping at straws ...!
Don't you have any ...?


Get real ...!
Takada ...?
What ...?
.....

You lousy snake ...!
Y-You got it wrong ...!

Filthy scum !
You're scum ...!
Hey ...!
Wah ...!

Just how dumb do you think we are ...!?

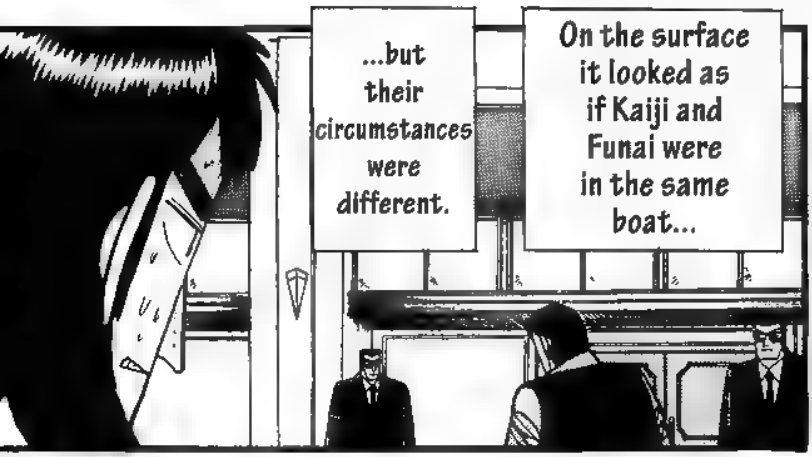

It's a mistake ...
Backstabber ...!
Y-You got it all wrong ...!
Hey, hold on...
Give back my stars ...!
Give 'em back ...!
It's just a mistake ...!
Ahh ...!
Ngh...!
Funai was cut off ...
SWSSH
Wait ...!
Ahh ...
SWSSH

His plan ...
... was ruined !
That halfwit did this...
Just a little further ...
I was almost there ...
How did this happen ...!?
I've lost everything ....!

Someone else's mar...
...opponent...
I was too careless...
Why did I underestimate him...!?
.....
Wait...!
What did I do...?
I can't believe my whole plan came unraveled...
...because of one careless remark.
And so...
.....
Stupid...!
Stupid...!
Stupid...!
It's all in shreds...
They know everything...

Kaiji ...
They wouldn't touch him with a 10 foot pole.
The other players had turned their back on him.
Funai was completely cut off...
...had paid Funai back, blow for blow.
.....
The other players were still as wary as ever...
...of Kaiji's group and their hand full of cards.
...was no better off than they had been before.
However, Kaiji's group...
Indeed ...
As things stood now ...
Defeat was certain.
...they would be forced to watch as the time ran out.
If there was no one willing to play them...

... they were dead in the water!


...but their circumstances were different.
On the surface it looked as if Kaiji and Funai were in the same boat...

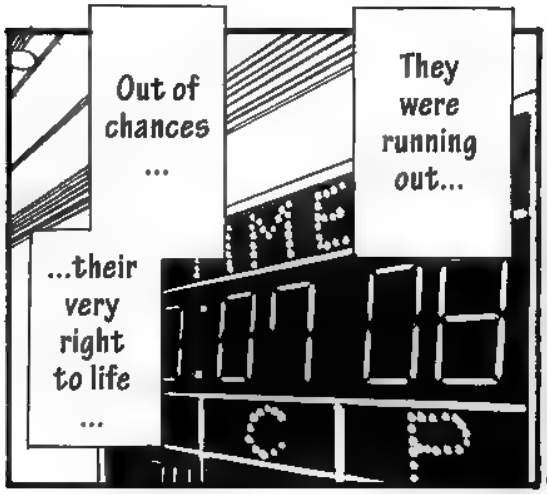
.....
It was a hopeless situation ...

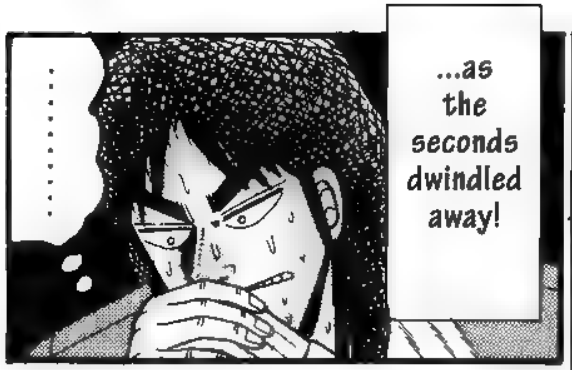
As they looked on...
...the time continued to wind down, mercilessly ...

He had hit a dead end...
But... that wasn't an option for Kaiji.
... with no way out ...

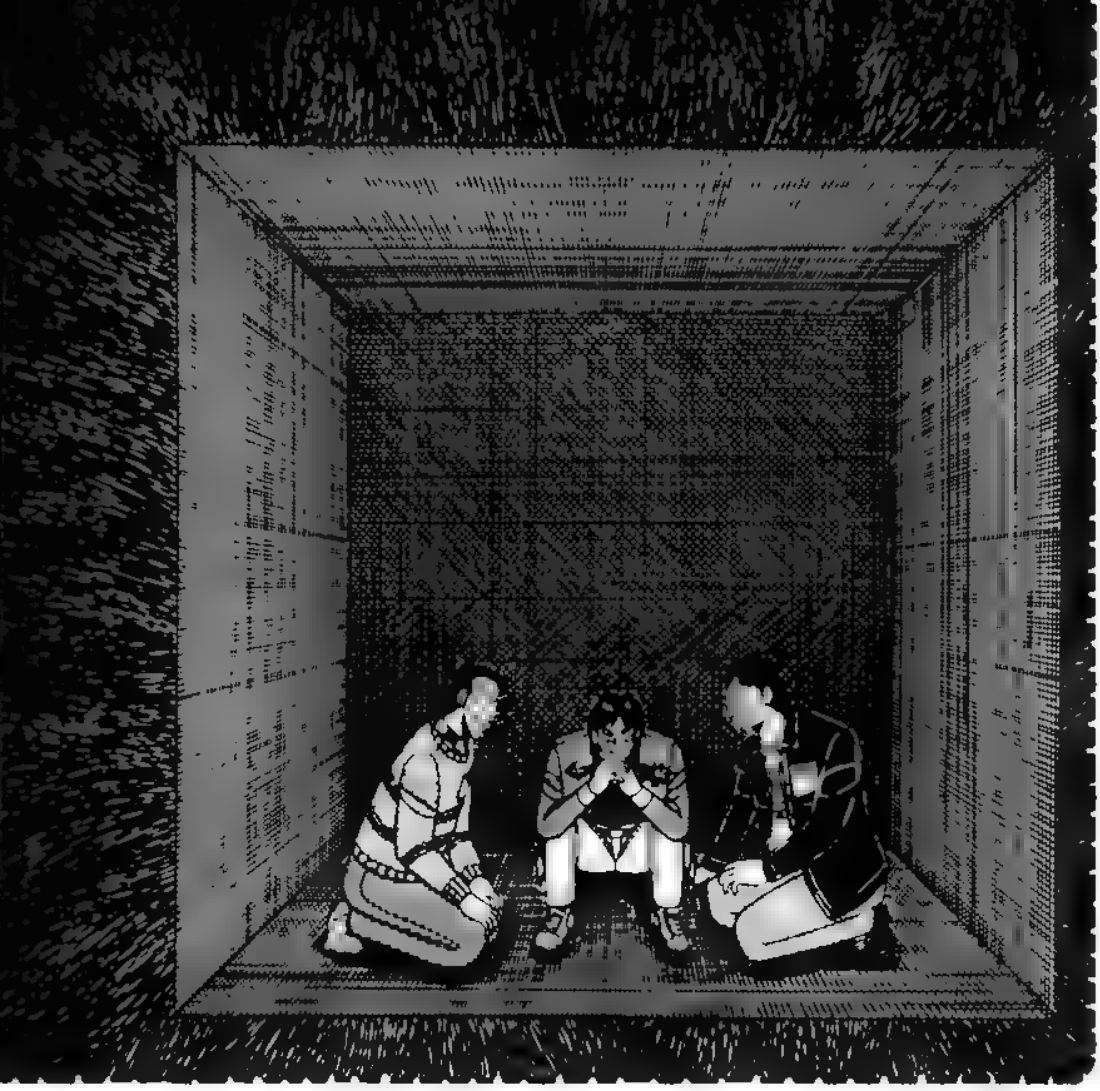
...Funai could still barter off one of his stars...
If worse came to worst ...

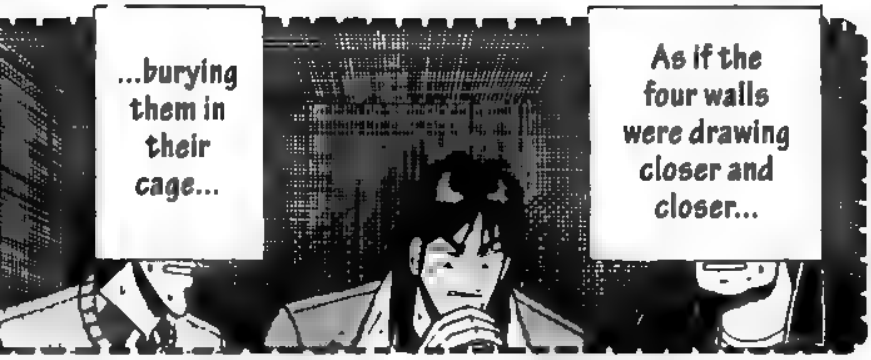
...and get himself out of the mess he's in that way.
...by agreeing to lose by default...





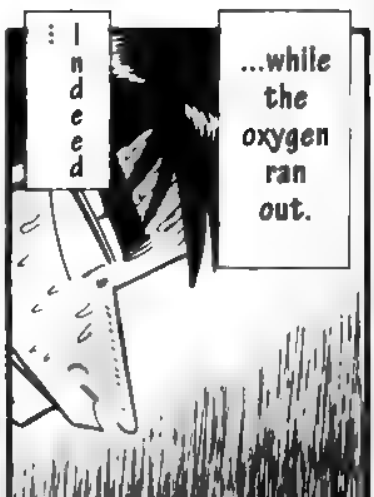
7 minutes and 10 seconds left!!


...the walls were closing in!


...burying them in their cage...
As if the four walls were drawing closer and closer...

Madness felt as if it were only a step away...
Ahh ...

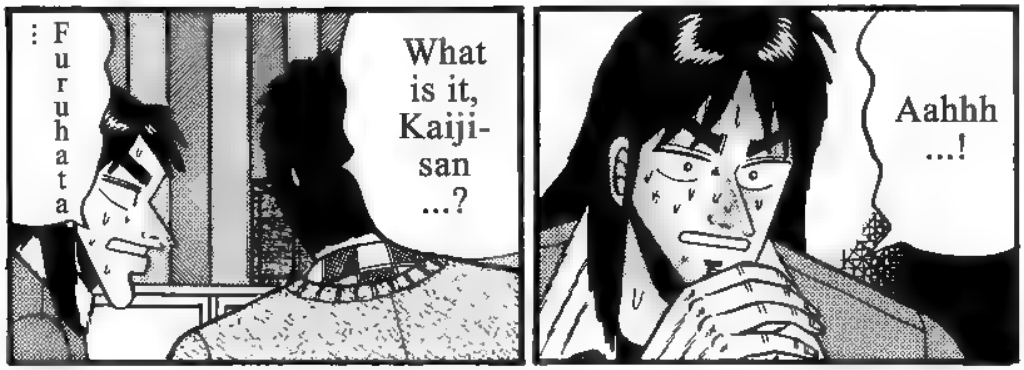
Soon the cage would be reality.
It was worse than any fantasy Kaiji could conjure up.


...while the oxygen ran out.
...Indeed

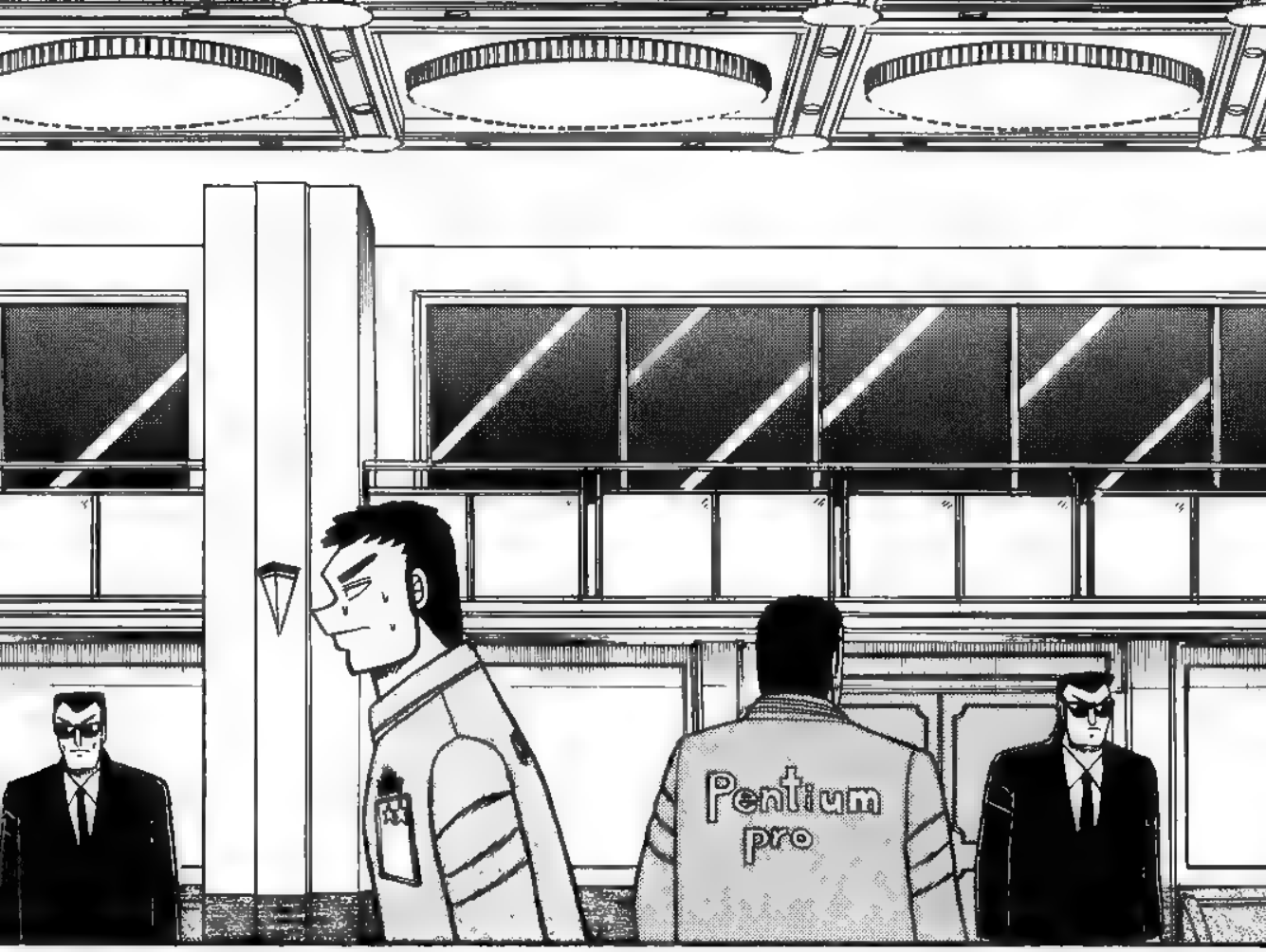
Death was near ...
It was the end, game over..
A dead end ...
Sayonara ...
The darkness was closing in...!

Mere minutes remained ...
Crushed to death ...!
... their fate would already be assured.
If they continued to sit there uselessly as the seconds ticked away...
.....
... until the end.
But at last ...
...Kaiji made a discovery !
Ah ...

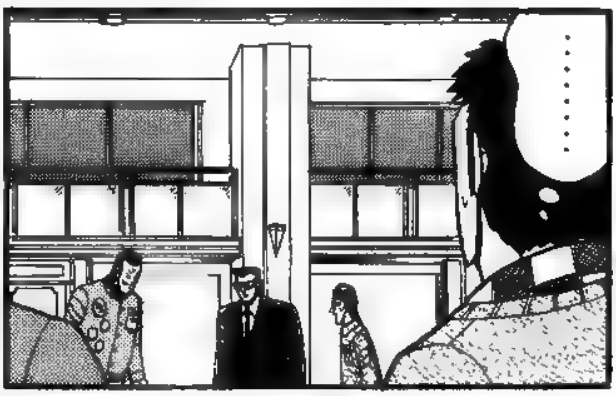
# A way out...!


Furuhata...
What is it, Kaiji-san...?
Aahhh...!

How long are they going to keep walking in circles...?
We're almost out of time...
Huh...?
Huh...?
Why aren't they playing each other...?


Pentium
pro

GASP
They aren't playing ...
Now that you mention it...


.....

Huh ...?
They can't ...

Of course...!

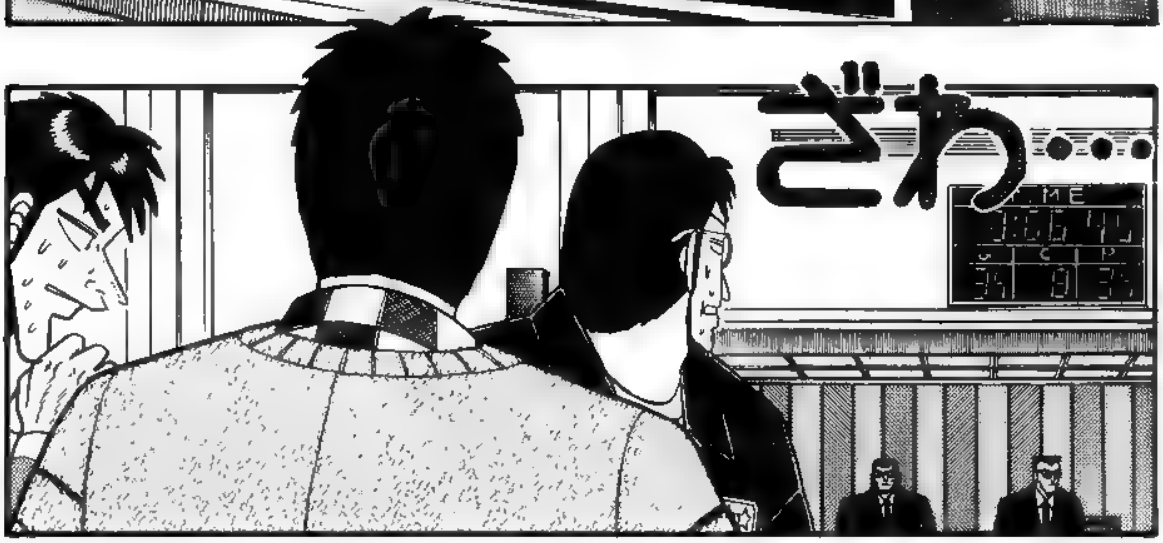
Ahh ...

...when I revealed that there weren't any more paper cards on the floor...
Just now ...
They can't start a match ...!
They can't what ...?
The only cards out there are rock and scissors.
Think about it...
.....
...the illusion of chance went out the window.
Ahh ...
...how are you supposed to win?
...if you happen to be one of the ones holding onto scissors...
In that case ...
It's impossible ...!
Hmm ...

Obviously they all want to make it to 3 stars with their last match.
But everyone's stuck at 2 stars.
...then losing would be no big deal.
It would be worth it just to get rid of your extra cards.
If you had 4 or 5 stars ...
If scissors can't play ...
...then neither can rock.
The rest is all related ...
...there's nothing they can do, even if they wanted to.
...since the guys with scissor cards have a zero chance of winning...
But all the same ...
This could be our way out ...
Think ...!
We can't give up yet ...!
.....
It's another catch 22...!
It's like a blind alley with no way out.
Kaiji -san ...!
We can't give up yet ...!
: Indeed

Kaiji had found ... the opening ...
...through which they would force their way out...
...and spin their final plan for survival!
End of Chapter 42

One last plan to survive ...!
TIME
0:06 46
G C P
34 8 34
A way out ...

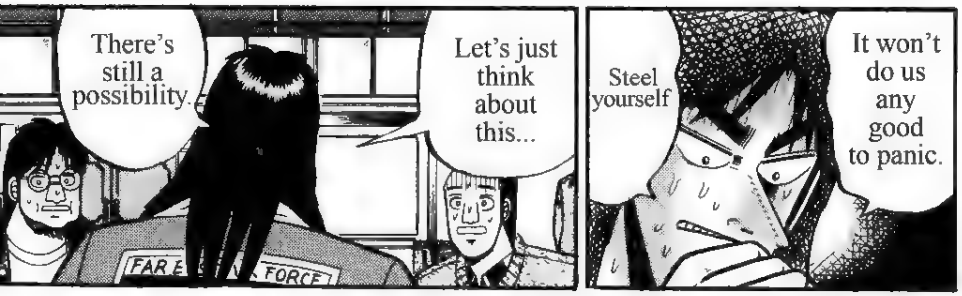

ざわ…

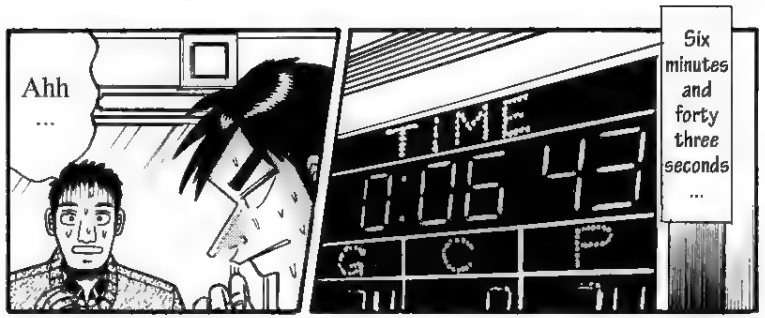
There must be something ...!

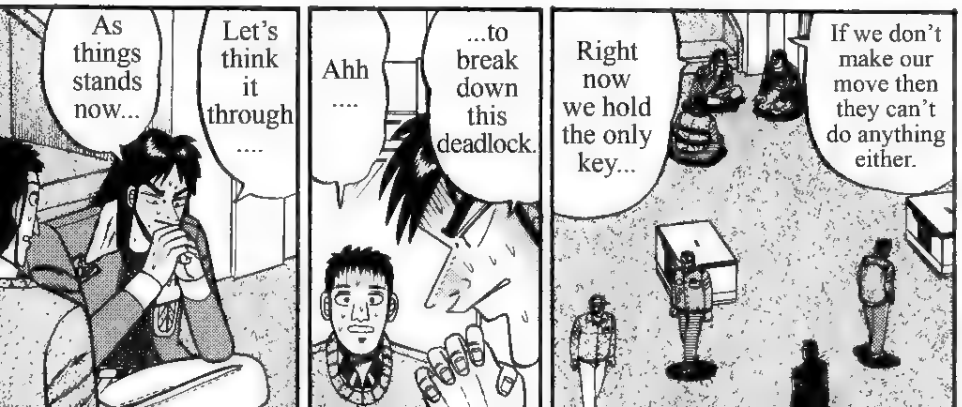
ざわ…ざわ…
……

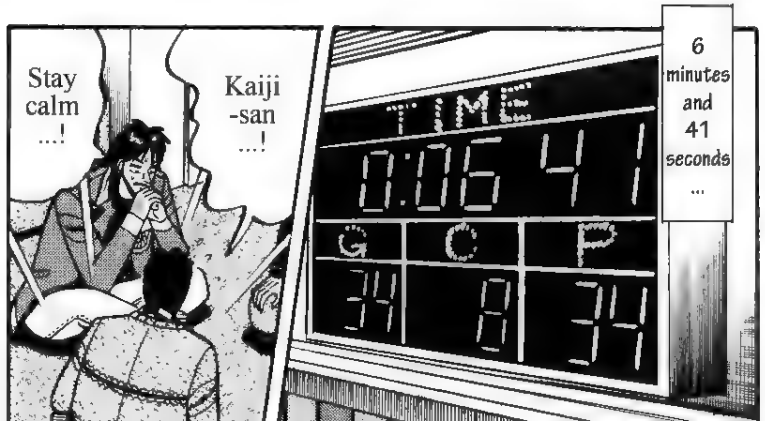
Something ...

# Chapter 43: Determination



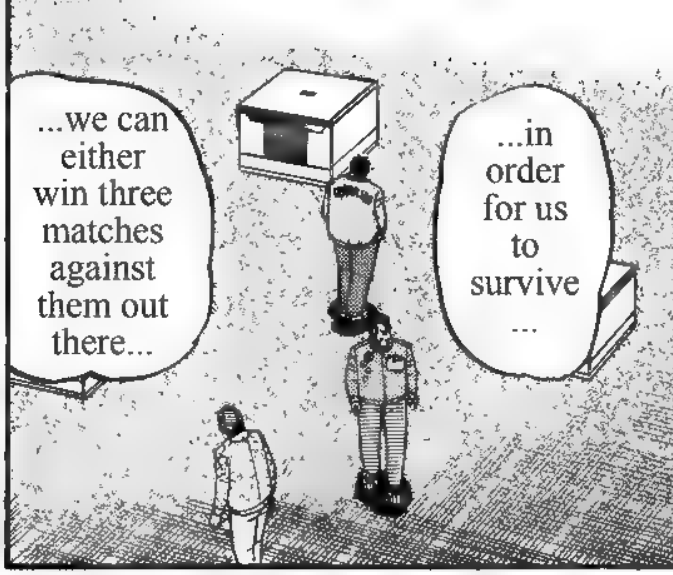





As things stands now...
Let's think it through ....
Ahh ....
...to break down this deadlock.
Right now we hold the only key...
If we don't make our move then they can't do anything either.




Something to improve our odds of surviving...!!

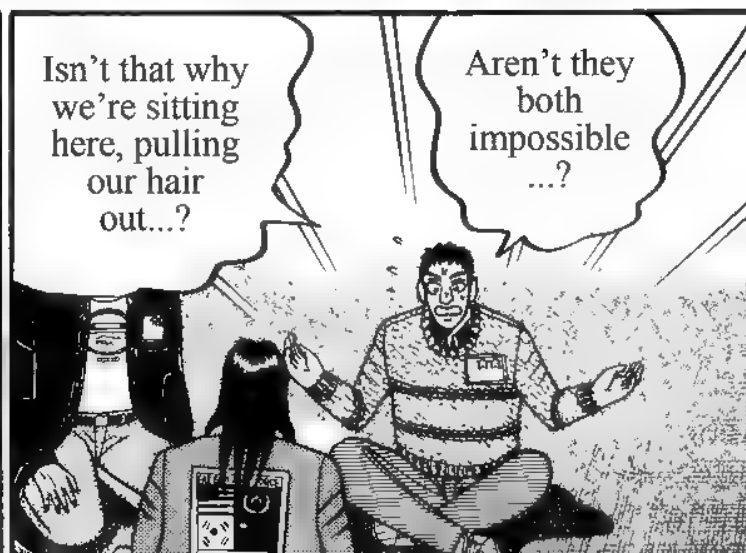
Or, since Funai ...
...in order to get our 9 stars...


...we can either win three matches against them out there...
...in order for us to survive ...

Those are our only options...!
...has so many stars, we can play 1 big match against him for the 3 stars.

But ...
Huh ...

.....
Aren't I...?
I'm right ...

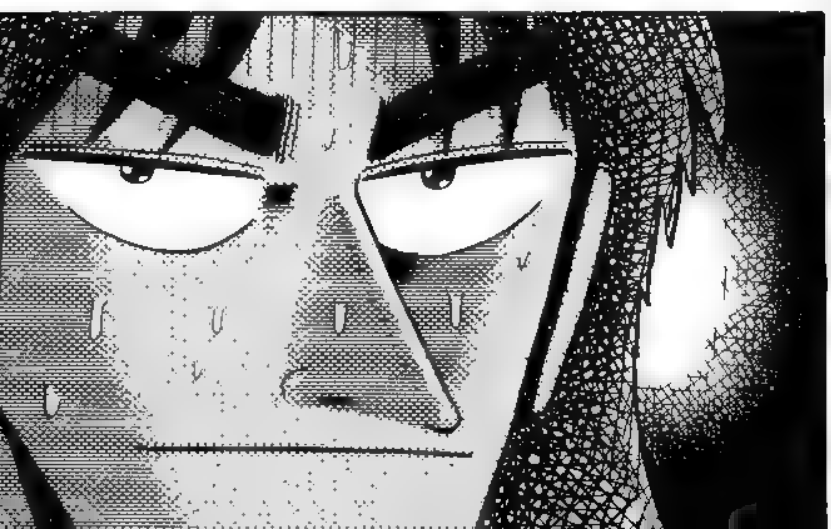

Isn't that why we're sitting here, pulling our hair out...?
Aren't they both impossible ...?

Aside from us three, everyone here...
...has only 1 card left.
On top of that, the only cards remaining ...
...are rock and scissors.

With all the cards we have ...
...playing against us is probably the last thing they'd want to do!
.....

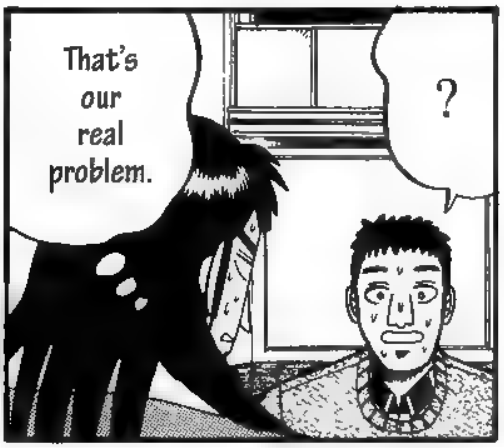
There's no chance he agrees ...!
.....

As for playing Funai for 3 or 4 stars...
... you've out of your mind!



Furuhata
...a bigger problem to figure out.
... we've still got ...
But more importantly ...
Hmph
I'm not so sure about that ...
But 69 cards ...
That's true ...
Y-Yeah ...
Huh ...?
We've got a total of 69 cards, right...
FAR EASTERN AIR FORCE
...then even again ...
... then odd ...
Even ...
...is an odd number.

That's our roadblock ...
...so how are we going ...
...to get past it?

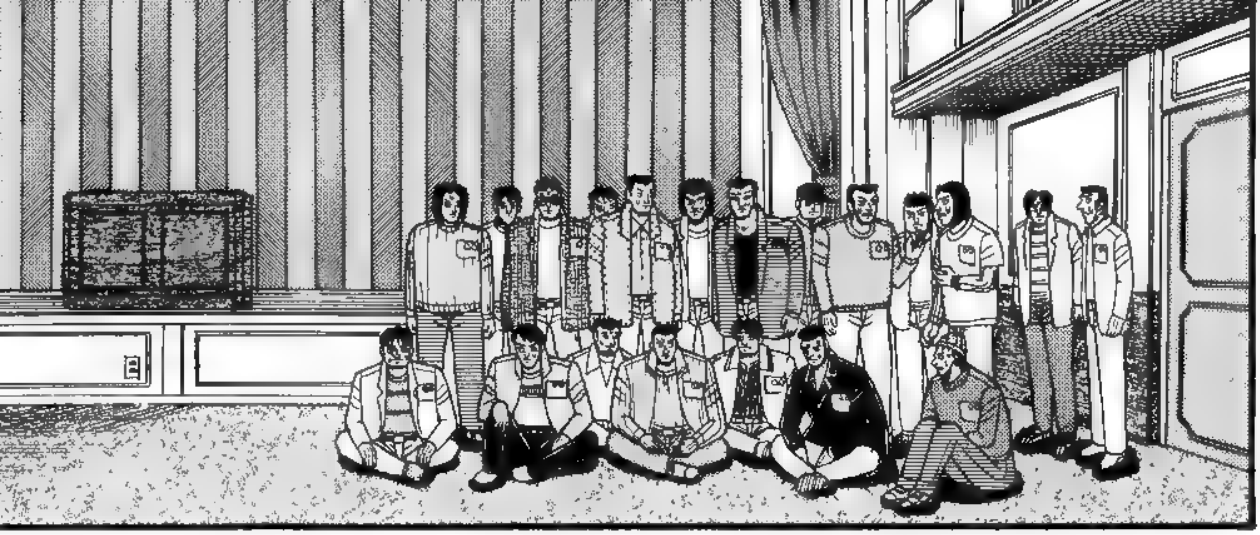

That's our real problem.
?

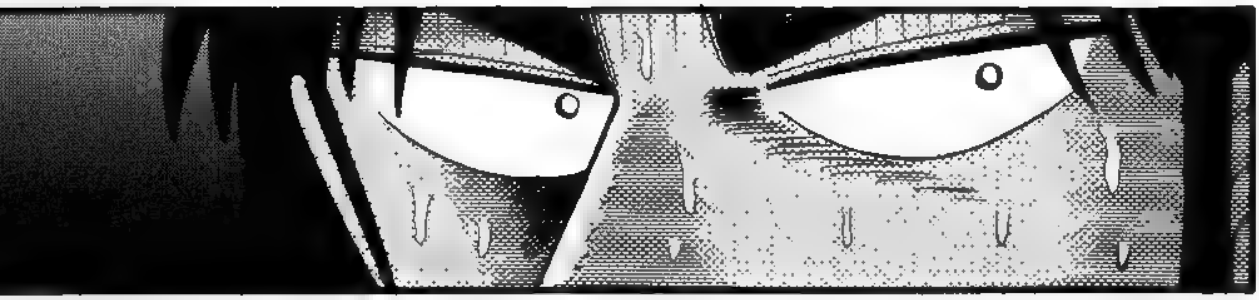
If there's an easy answer ...

.....

X
There's still Mr. X ...

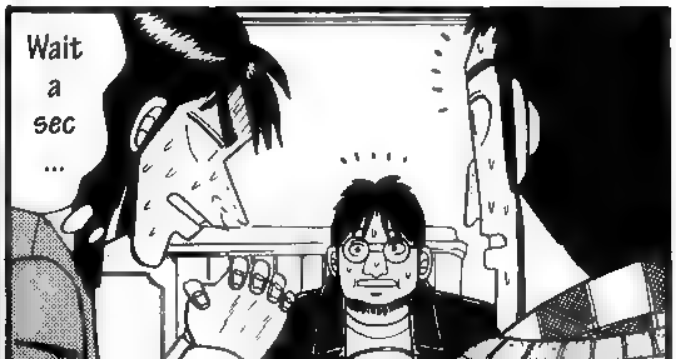
...I just can't find it!
TIME
0:06 23
G C P





Shhh ...!
Kaiji -san ...

Ahh ...!


Wait a sec ...

?
?
.....
.....
Kaiji -san ....!
Hmph ...
Furuhata.....
Ando ...

I've got it ...
PSST
A way out ...
One last surefire win ...!

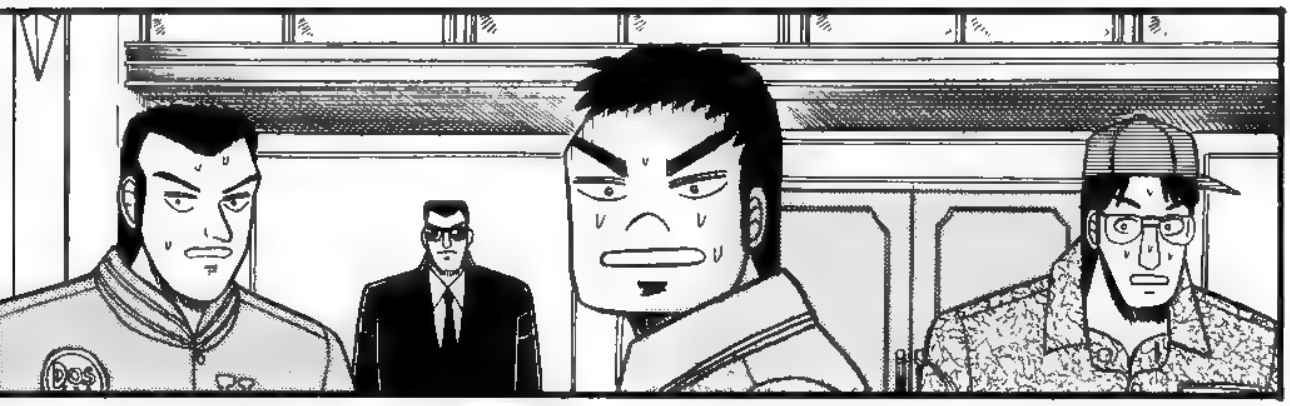
Shh ...!
F-For real ...?

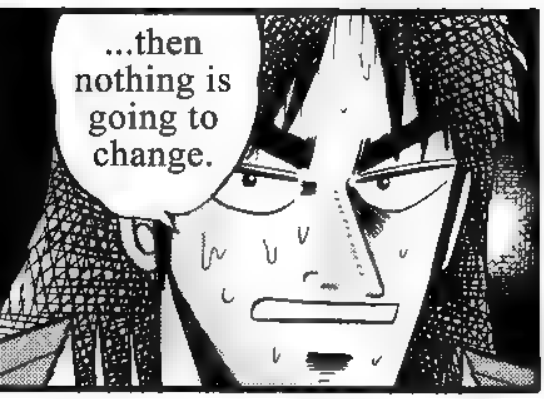
Ahh ....!

Hmph ...
Oops ...!
.....
TIME
0:06 12
G C P
...we're gonna have to pass through hell to get there.
Even if all goes well ...
...we're facing desperate measures here.
But still ...
...but we're out of option.
...I'd rather not take a chance like this...
If I had my choice ...

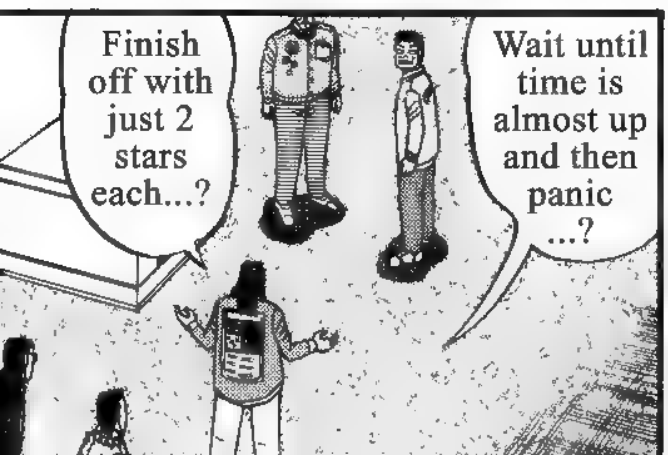
TIME
0:06 08
G C P
34 8 34
Time is running out...
...and beggars can't be choosers.
...?
.....
He said he's found a surefire win...
...but he doesn't seem very happy.
Kaiji-san is acting strange
He actually looks defeated...like he's resigned himself to something...
Everybody...!

I have a proposal ...!
Listen up...!

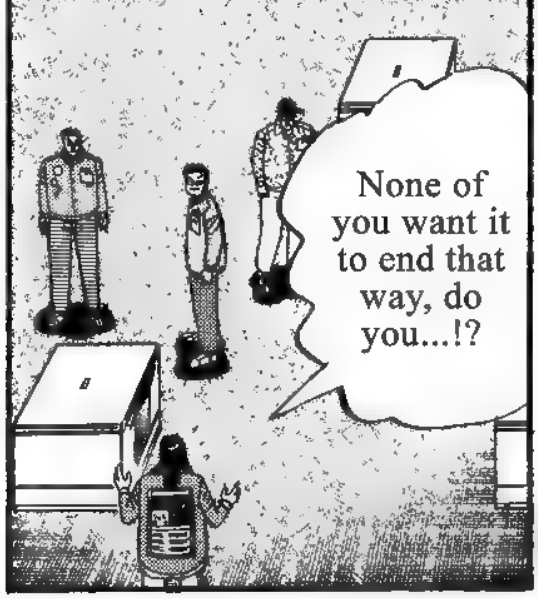



...then nothing is going to change.

If we just sit here waiting ...
ざわ


Finish off with just 2 stars each...?
Wait until time is almost up and then panic ...?

What are you going to do?
We're just wasting our time.


None of you want it to end that way, do you...!?

The way things stand there's no way of taking 3 stars...!
That's the best you can do right now ...!

In that case ...
.....

...play against me!

.....

We'd rather just take our chances ...
We don't want to sit on our hands and watch the time run out any more than you do...
.....
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

We'll take 3 cards ...
...and leave the results up to heaven.
...we took by buying those cards...
...to give up the advantage ...
So we're willing ...
...and shuffle them.
...rock, paper, and scissors...
...we're going to play!
...and let you pick which card...
We'll put all 3 cards face down on the table...
Agh ...!

ざわ・・・

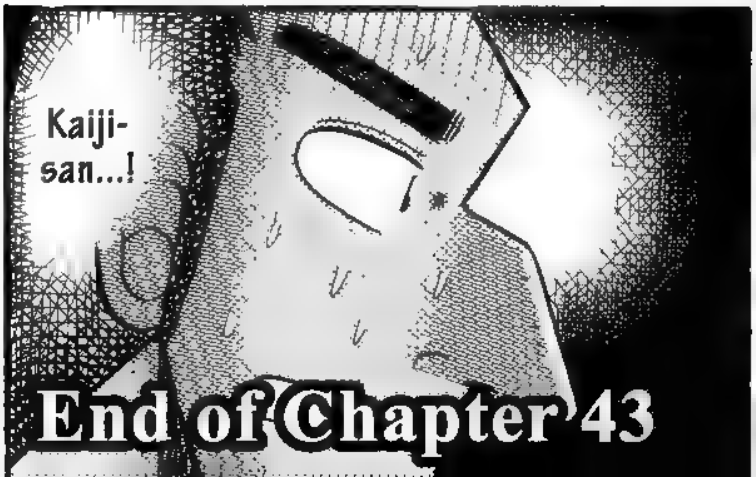
How is that supposed ...
...to guarantee a win?

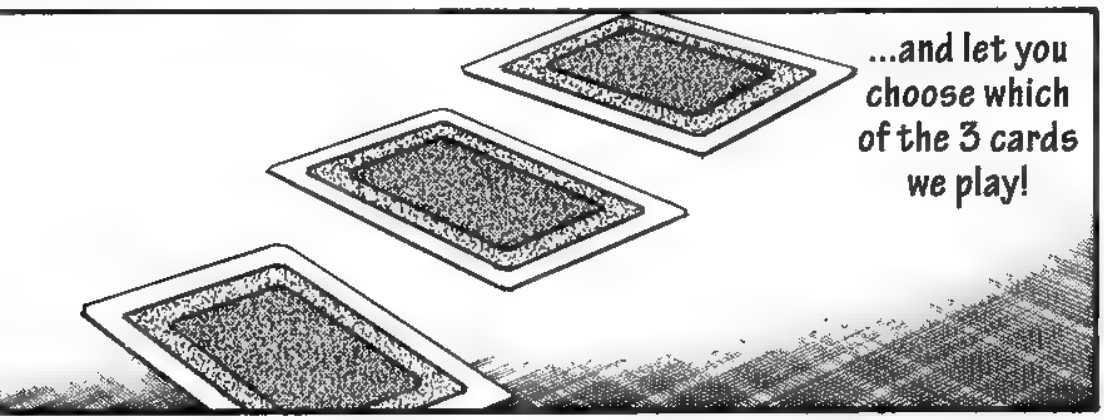
No way ...
!

.....
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・

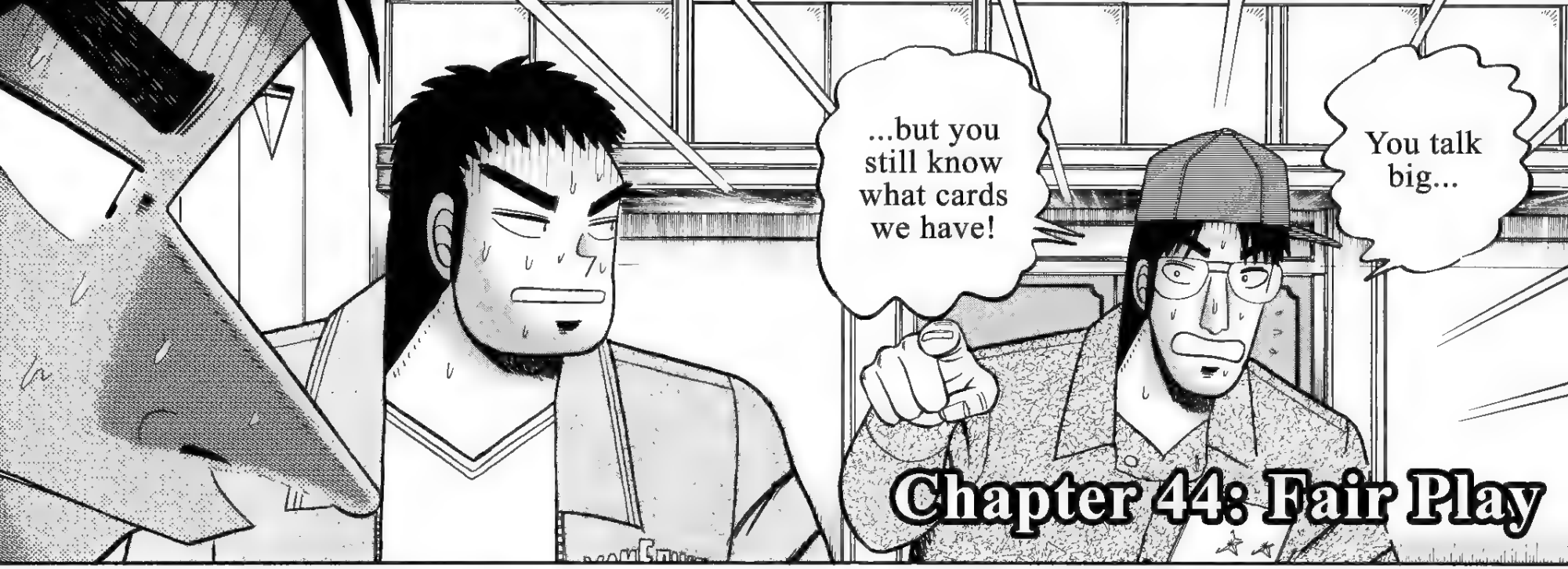
.....

It looks like it's all a matter of chance...
What guarantees we win...?
CENTRAL LINE

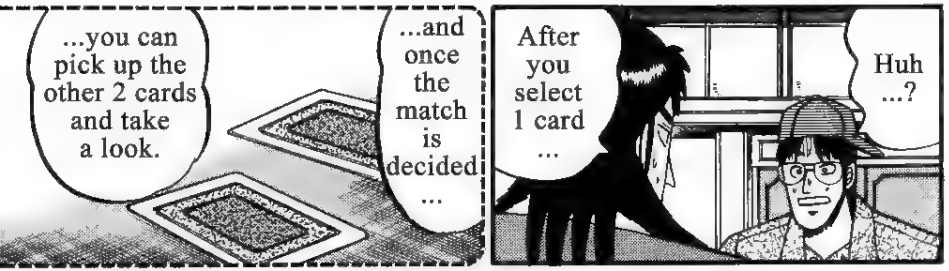

Kaiji-san...!
End of Chapter 43



We're willing to give up our advantage ...

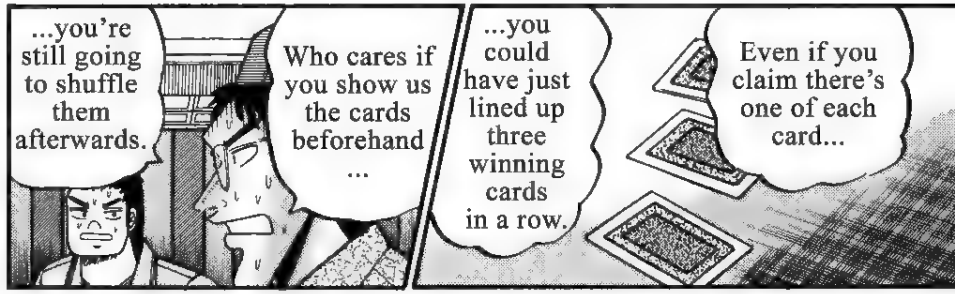


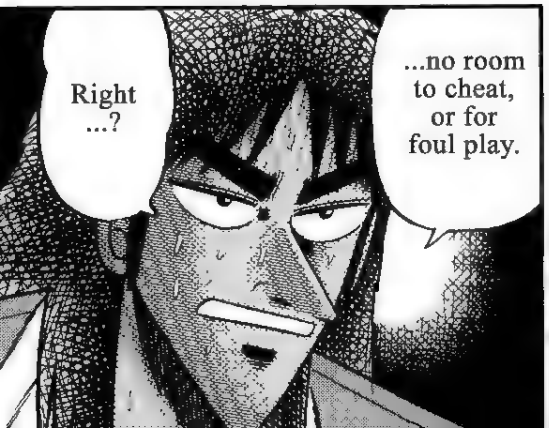

# Chapter 44: Fair Play



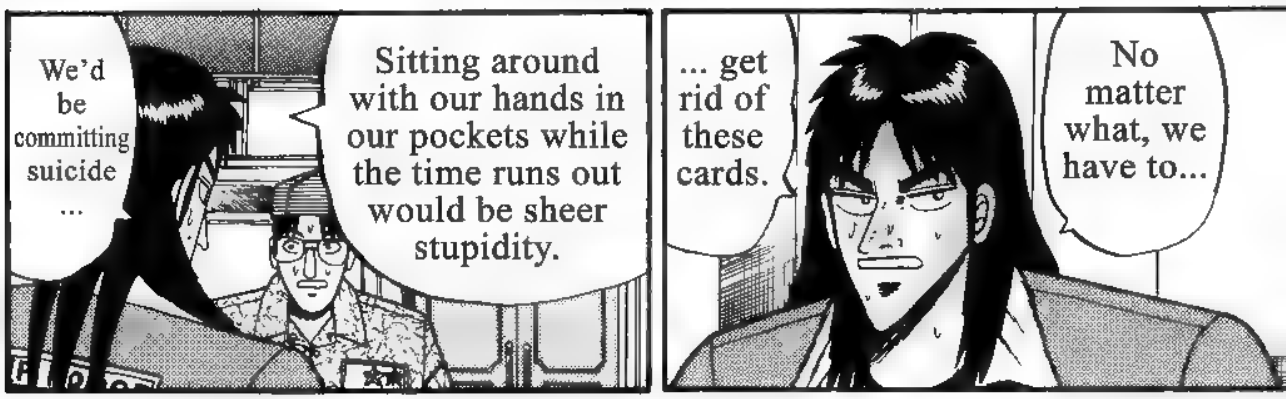


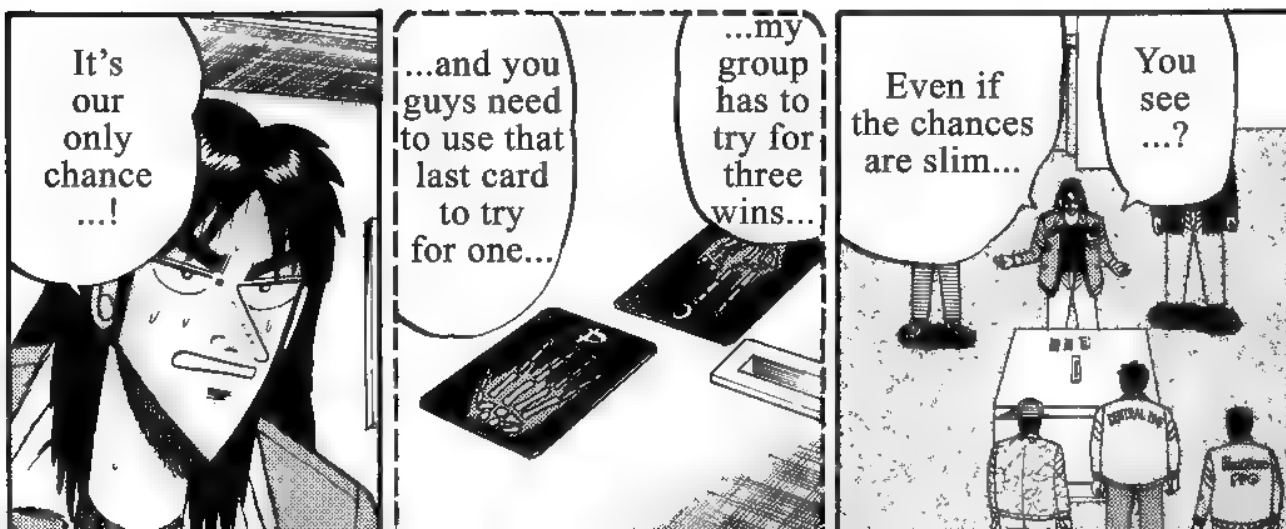



...you're still going to shuffle them afterwards.
Who cares if you show us the cards beforehand ...
...you could have just lined up three winning cards in a row.
Even if you claim there's one of each card...

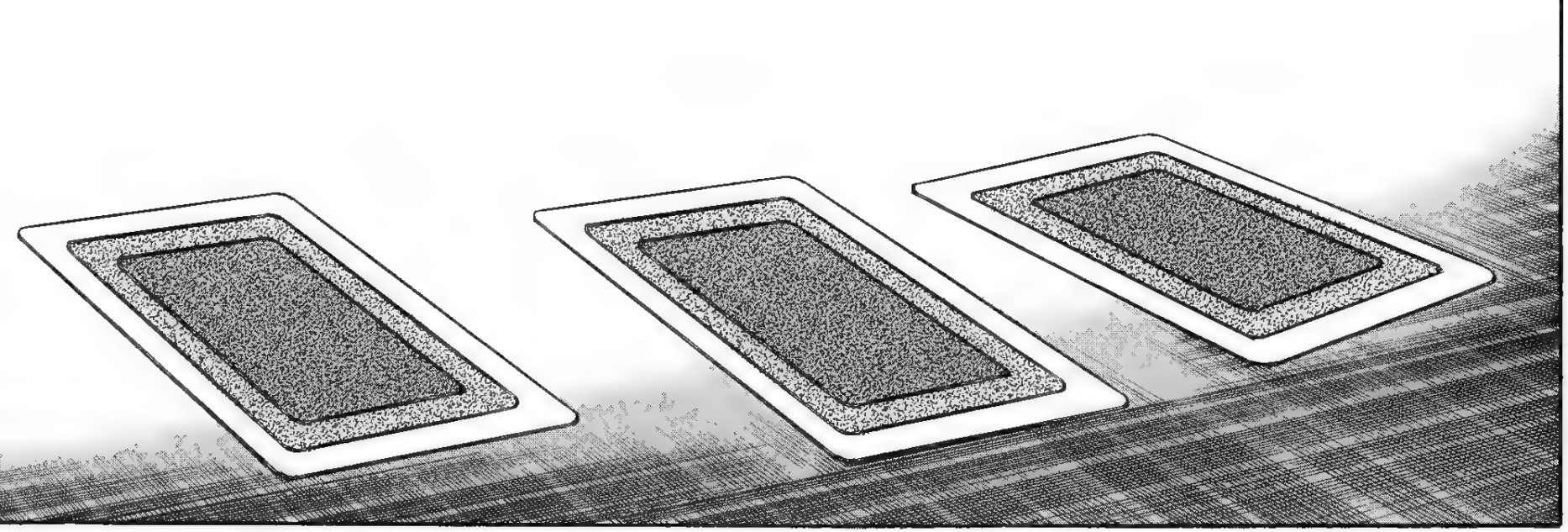


Listen, okay...!
B-But...
ざわ…
ざわ…

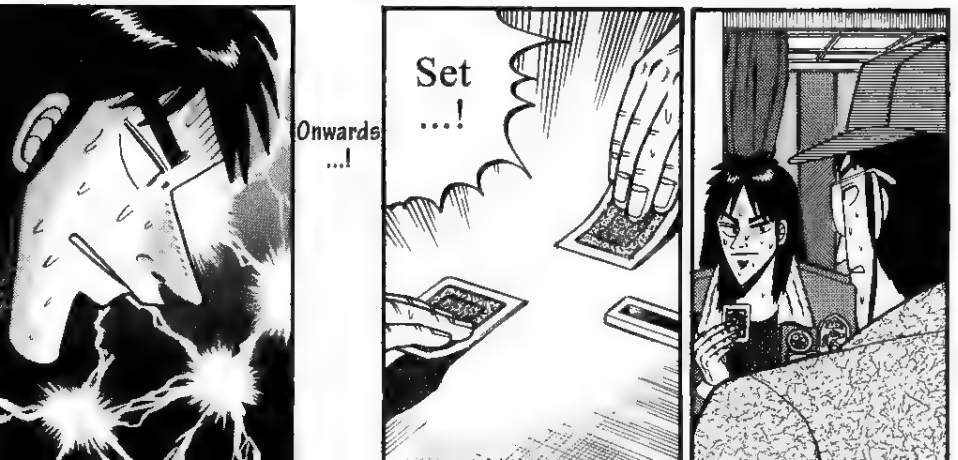

We'd be committing suicide ...
Sitting around with our hands in our pockets while the time runs out would be sheer stupidity.
... get rid of these cards.
No matter what, we have to...


It's our only chance ...!
...and you guys need to use that last card to try for one...
...my group has to try for three wins...
Even if the chances are slim...
You see ...?

...then how exactly do you expect to win?
If you're not willing to play me...
That's a 100% guaranteed loss.
Remember, your last card is a scissors.
...in other words, three matches in a row without you...
For instance, if we happened to win three matches in a row against that traitor Funai and these two...
If that should happen your last chance of surviving will disappear...!
...then obviously we aren't going to play anymore.
That's right ...!
Aahhh ...
Ahh ...
Is that okay with you ...?

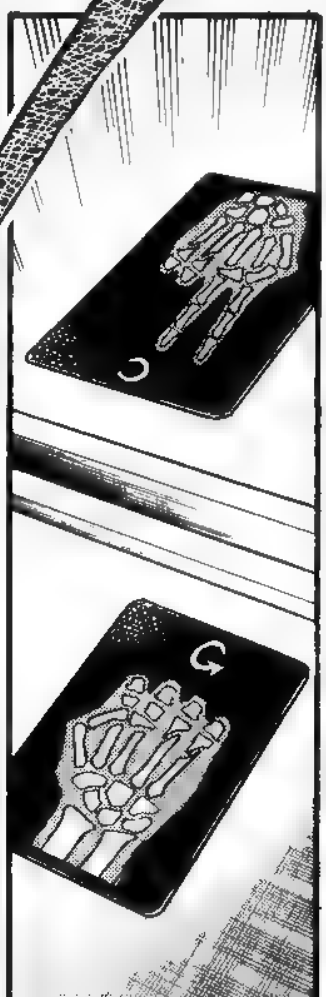


Five minutes and forty eight seconds left...!




The only way left is forward ...!

Our escape lies ahead...!



We did it...! We did it...!
Wahhh ....
Alright ...!
Eeeek ...!
P
C
THUMP
Ohh ...
Ah... ohhh...
Ah ...

SWIPE
WAH...
I'm sorry.
.....
Ahh...
Takada ...!
Next ...!
Ngh ...!
Hurry up...!
Ahh...
.....
Takada ...!
...but if you don't play me then who are you gonna play?
Pussyfoot as long as you like...

Check ...!
FAR EA AIR FORCE
The second match ...
CENTRAL LINE
What's going on...?
Furuhata -san...
I don't know ...
How do you think Kaiji-san won...?

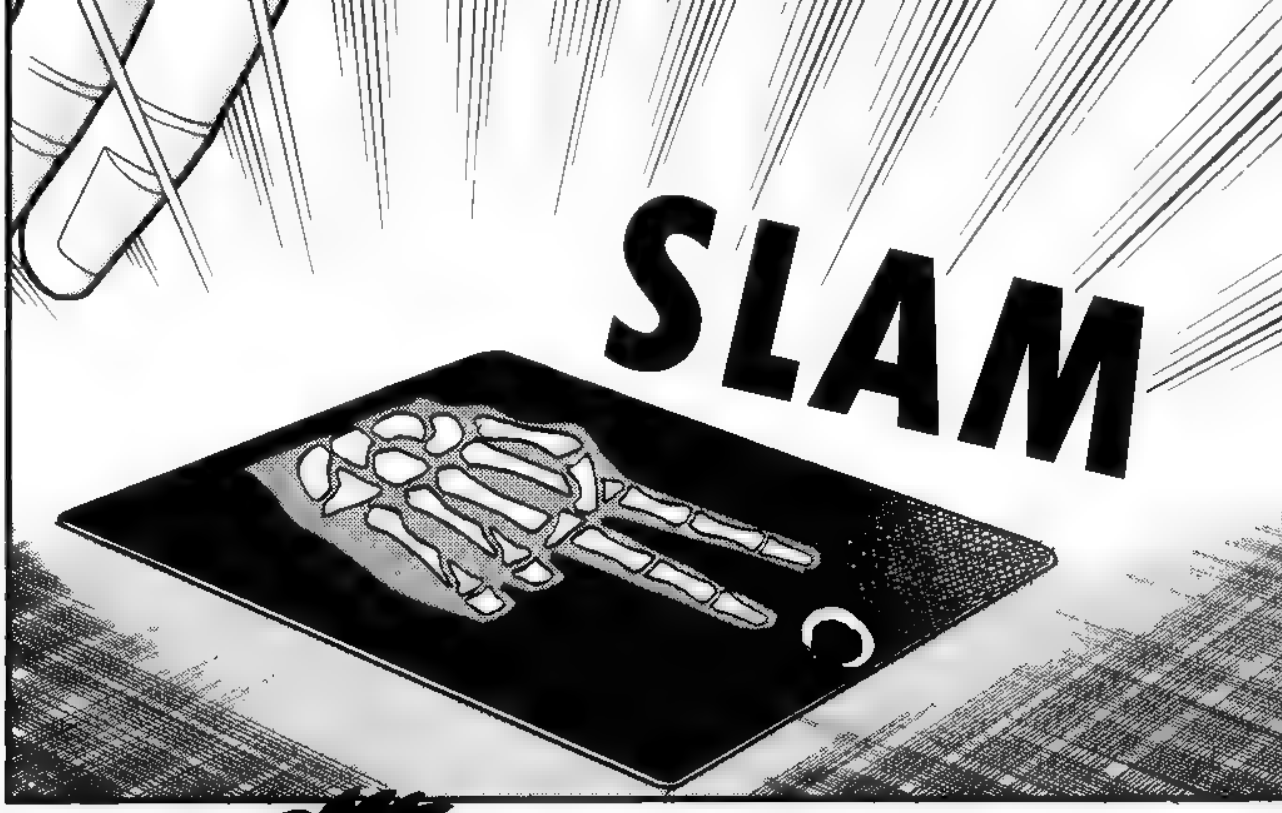
He must have something up his sleeve...
...there must be something we're missing.
Some trick we just can't see...
PSST
So ...
Kaiji-san said he had a surefire plan...
But ...
How should I know ...?

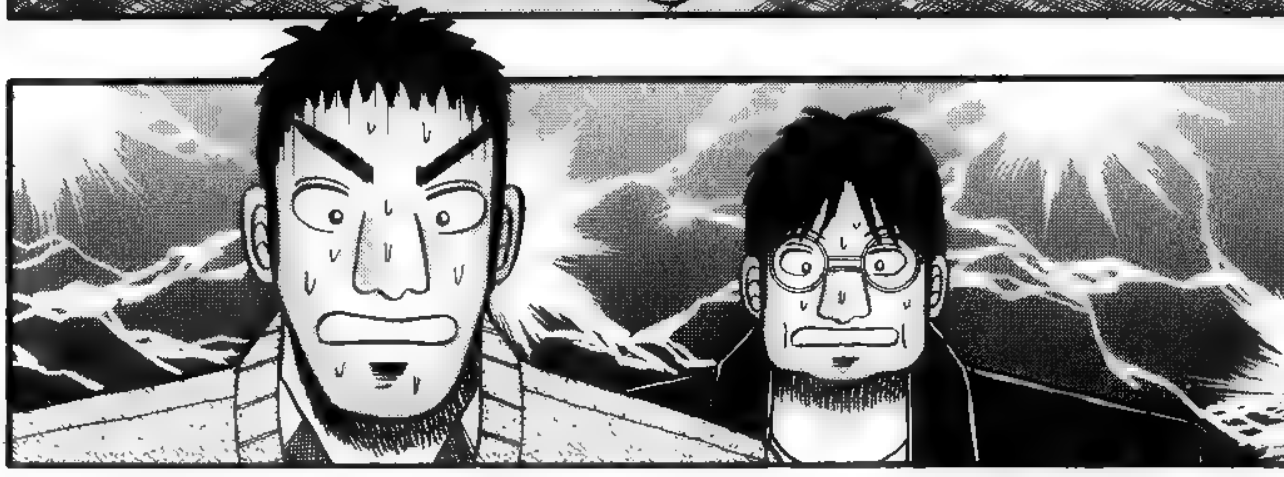
But at least ...
We're still going to be in debt from all the money we had to borrow for tonight...
...and save the three of us.
I think he's gonna win three matches in a row...
Yeah ...
Then ...

We'll be able to escape this boat...!
...we'll have 9 stars!

Go ...!
He's not finished yet!
Whoops ...!
Shh ...!
Furuhata -san...!

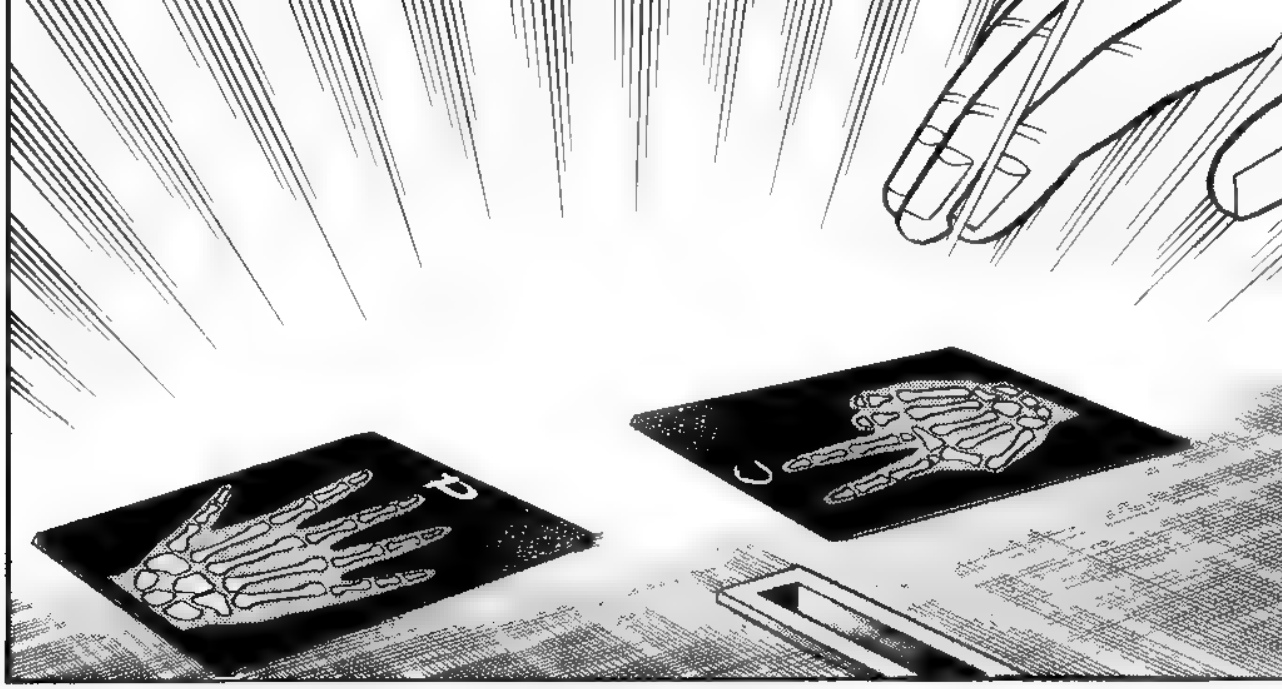
Here come win number two...
Which means ...
His opponent played rock...
.....
SLAM
Yeah ...
It's gotta be paper ...!


SLAM



Alright ...!
What ...!?
Wahh ...!
Huh ...?
Huh ...?

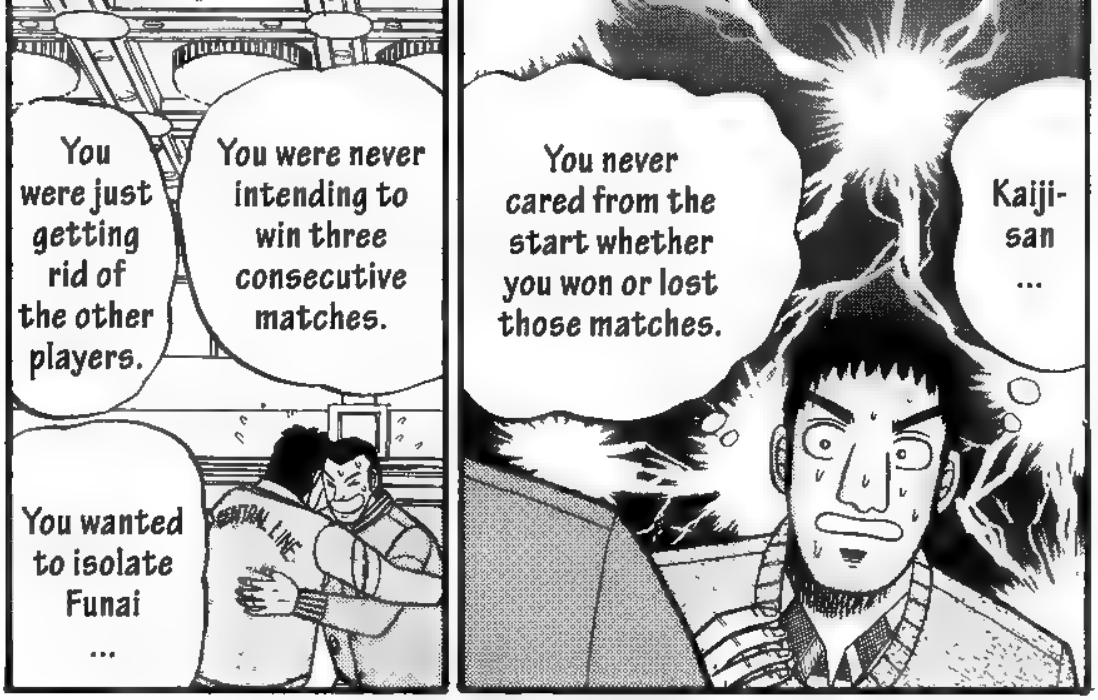
Kaiji-san...!
N-No way...!
.....
I survived ...!
I did it ...! I did it ...!
Hooray ...!
ROLL ROLL
This is still part of my plan...
It's fine ...
Kaiji-san...!
Alright ...!
Next ...!
Go ...!
While Furuhata scratched his head in bewilderment ...
The third match began ...
.....
Yeah ...
Part of your plan ...?



Two losses in a row ...!
Ahh ...
Alright ...!
Kaiji was one-for-two.
Not again ...
No ...
.....

Next ...
... but now we've lost stars!
We're already in hot water here ...
I don't understand ...
F-Furuhata-san... What's happening ...?
Ahh ...

Funai ...!
GASP
Huh ...?
Let's go ...
.....

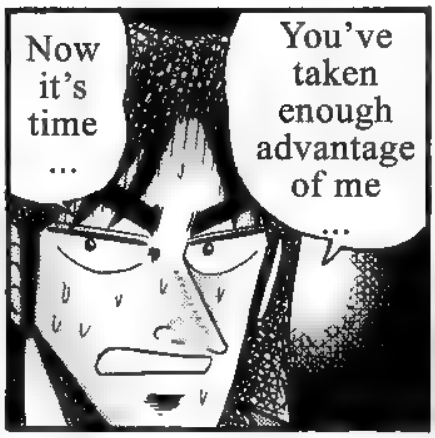

You were just getting rid of the other players.
You were never intending to win three consecutive matches.
You wanted to isolate Funai ...
You never cared from the start whether you won or lost those matches.
Kaiji-san ...
Of course...!

I'm sure that Kaiji ...
There's one problem ...
But ...
... and then bag one big win.

... it's time to even the score!
We're stuck with each other until the bitter end ...
Hurry up, Funai ...!
... must have seen his own weak point, but still ...
End of Chapter 44

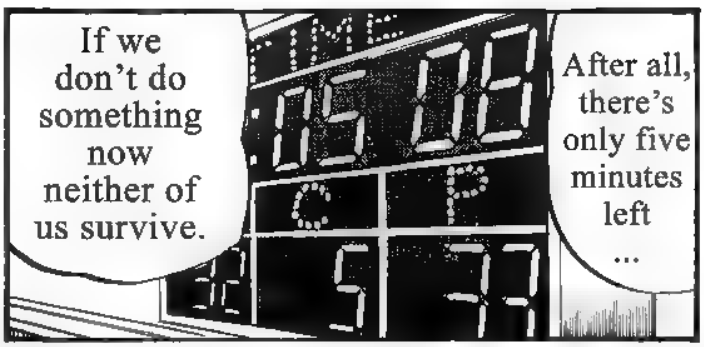
……
ざわ・・
ざわ・・

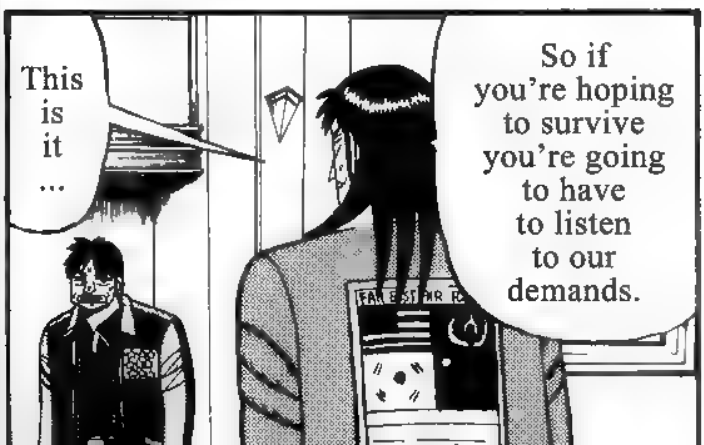
… what you owe me!
… for you to pay back …


Now it's time …
You've taken enough advantage of me …

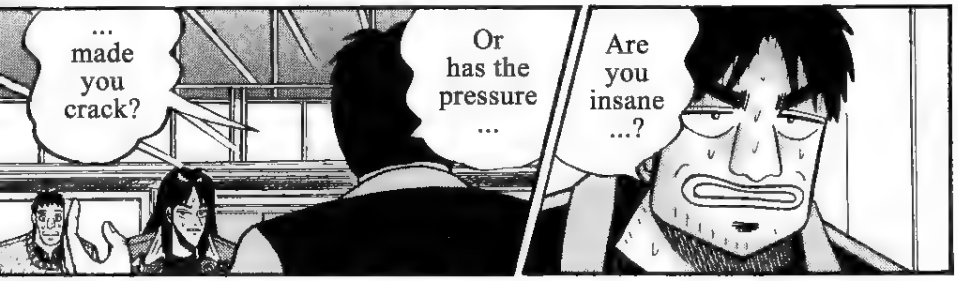
Yeah …
"Even the score" …?

Winner takes all …!
One final match …


If we don't do something now neither of us survive.
After all, there's only five minutes left …

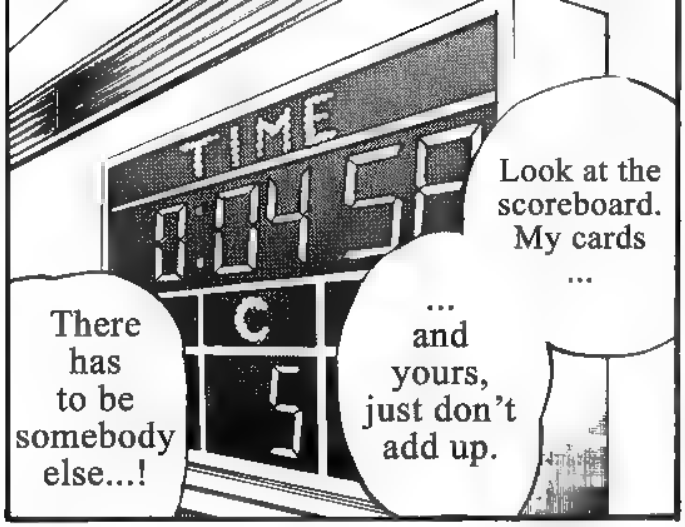

This is it …
So if you're hoping to survive you're going to have to listen to our demands.

## Chapter 45: Ground Zero



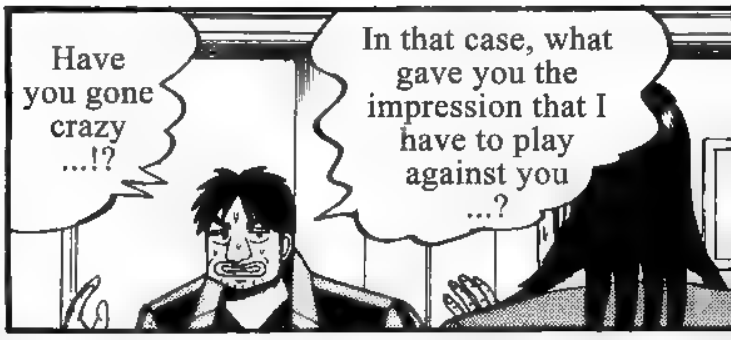
Have you forgotten …?
There's still Mr. X …!
You're an idiot …!
Especially for 5 whole stars …?
… knowing that I'm going to lose?
Why makes you think I'd be willing to play you …
You know my cards.

A single match for 5 stars…!


TIME
8:04:58
C
5
There has to be somebody else...!
Look at the scoreboard. My cards ...
... and yours, just don't add up.

... but there's still one more guy with cards left.
He hasn't shown himself yet...

Give up, already ...!
.....


Have you gone crazy ...!?
In that case, what gave you the impression that I have to play against you ...?

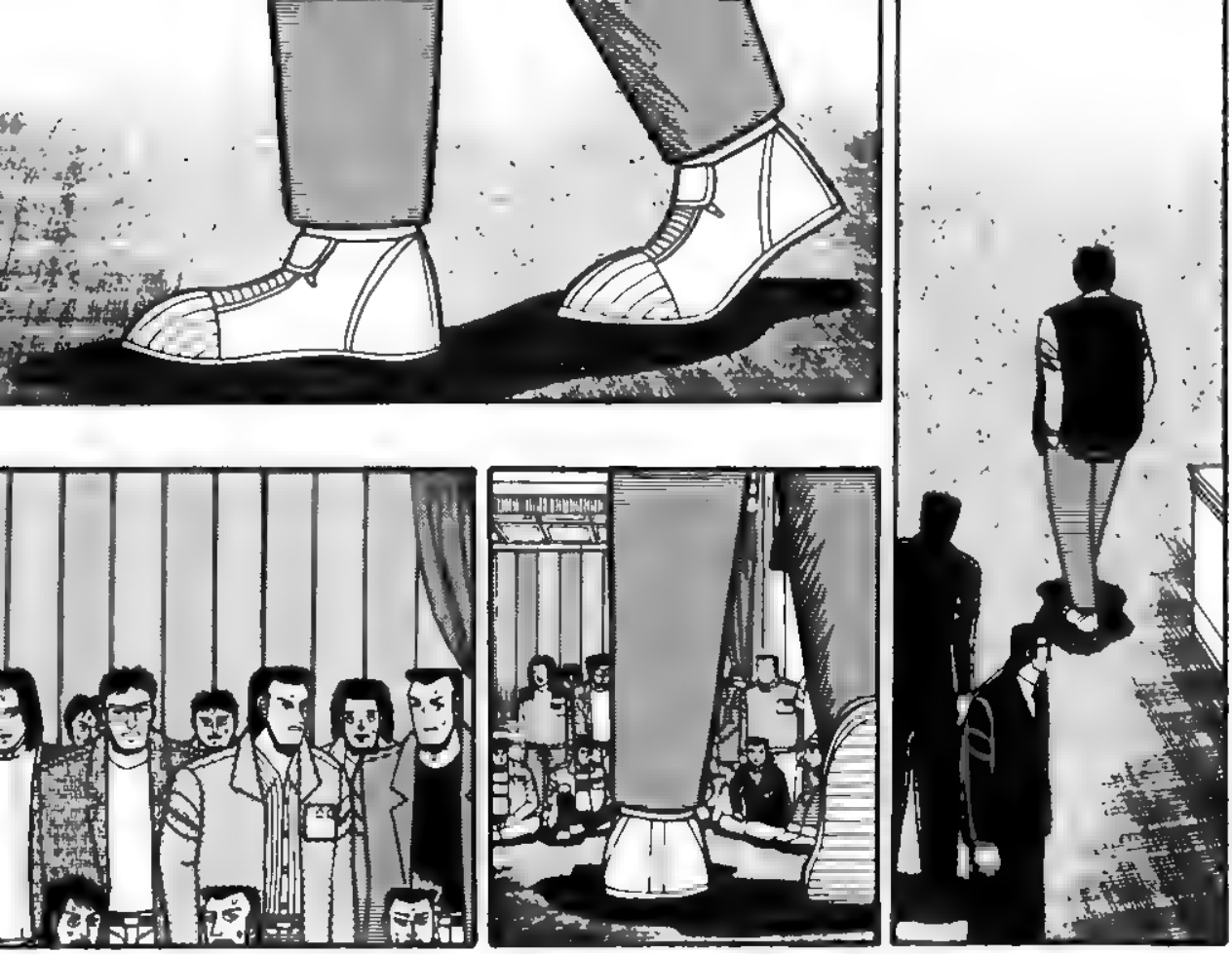
I guess survival is making you desperate ...!
Go even your own score ...

Kaiji-san ...
.....

.....

Now buzz off ...!
FORCE

.....
You weren't able to win your three matches ...
... so it's all over for you now.


Who is it ...?
ざわ..ざわ..
It's too late for haggling ...
See for yourself, time is nearly up...
Enough already ...
?
?

Mr. X... Show yourself ...!
NERV
Where are you ...?
Which of you is it ...?
ざわ..
I can understand why you wouldn't want ... to come forward.
So you know your scissor card will lose.
Alright ...
Hmph ...
ざわ..
ざわ..
Mr. X must be here ...
X
I know one of you is hiding a card.
... just you guys here, waiting for the auction.
There's nobody else left ...
ざわ..
ざわ..

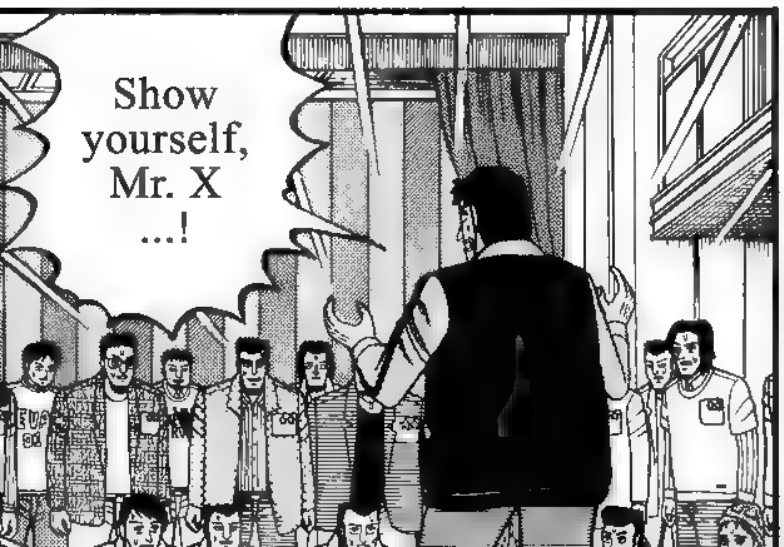
After all ...
I think it's time we put everything out in the open ...!
How long do you intend to continue this charade ...?
But our time's almost up.
... would be enough for you to negotiate with ...
You figured that once last call comes even those losing scissor cards ...
... wasn't that your plan from the start?
Your strategy has paid off ...
So relax ...
.. was truly impressive.
Well then, I applaud you. Your patience and your foresight in the midst of danger...
But we'll just call it even ...
And on top of that ...
Naturally, your scissor card should lose against my rock...
?
All your prayers are going to be answered ...!

ざわ…
Well …?
If you have 2 stars I'll give you 1. If you have 1 star I'll give you 2.
… I'll also give you enough stars to survive!

You'll be able to survive.
What more could you ask for?
Isn't that enough …?
ざわ…ざわ…

Now show yourself …!

Everything you've been holding out for …!
This is it, Mr. X …


Show yourself, Mr. X …!

...
at
all
...
Nobody
...
Nobody
came
forward
...
But
...

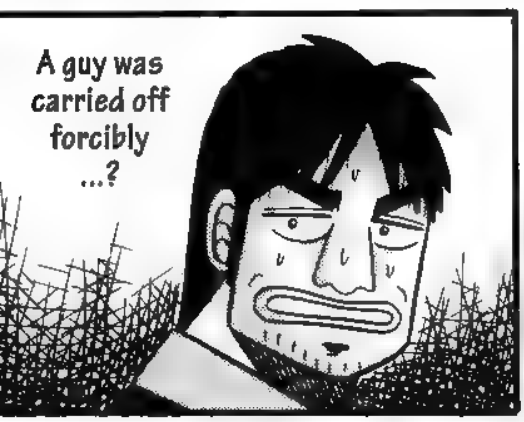
Nobody would come forwards as Mr. X...!

Could he have been lying all this time about having 69 cards...
... when he actually had 72 ...
... intentionally leaving the whereabouts of those 3 cards unknown ...
Was it a trap ...?
Impossible ...
It isn't possible ...!
No ...!
.....
...by creating a Mr. X?
...why in the world would he play against us when we can choose from all 3 cards!?
Now that everyone knows that he's got 3 scissor cards ...
...we can play three matches against Mr. X!
It couldn't be one of their traps ...!
It's hard to believe that that was all just an act...
Just forget about Mr. X ...!
You numskull ...!

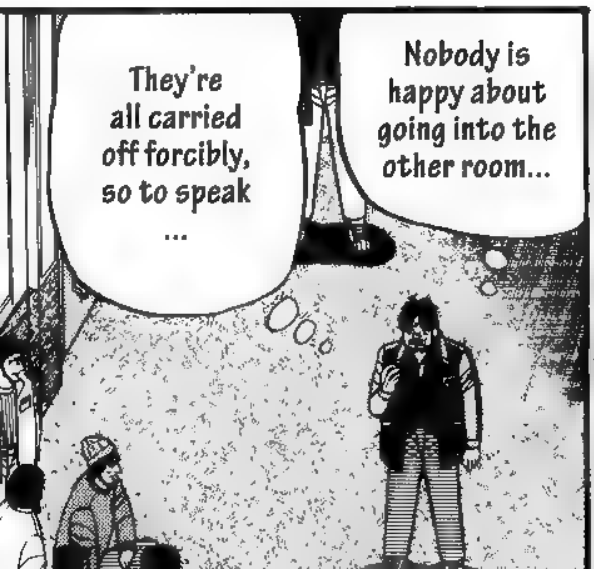
Huh ...?
When are you gonna figure it out ...!?

Funai ...
Then why ...?

... something unusual happened ...
There was an accident.
Halfway through the game ...

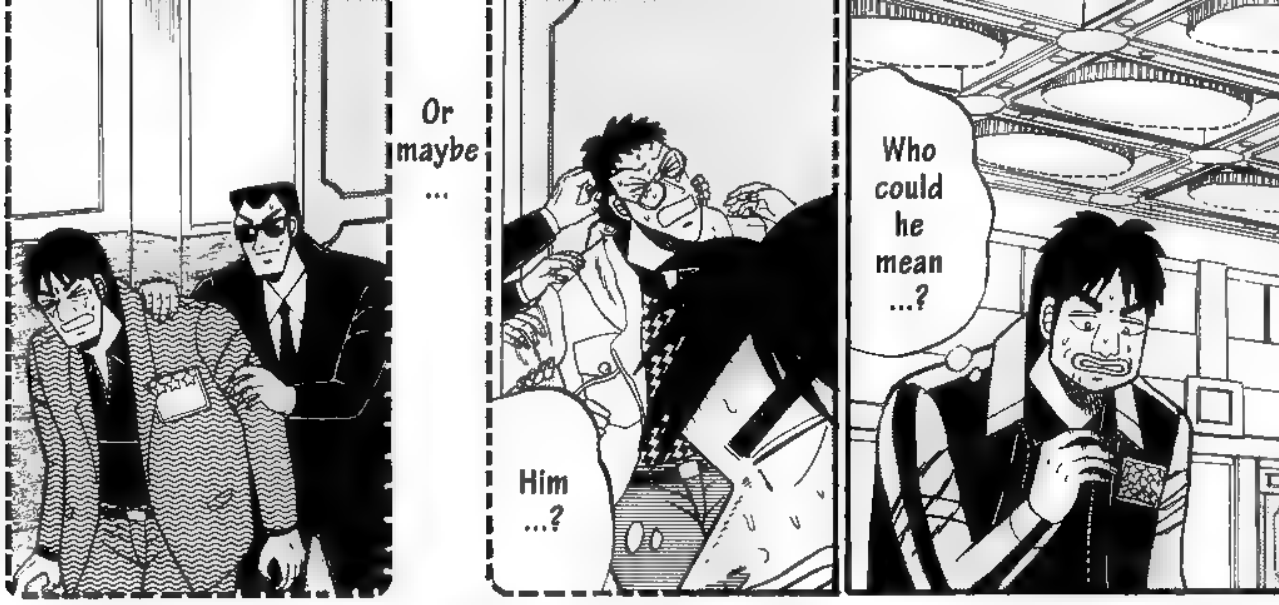

A guy was carried off forcibly ...?

?.....
Don't you remember ...?
A guy was carried off forcibly into the other room.
FAR EAST AIR FORCE


They're all carried off forcibly, so to speak ...
Nobody is happy about going into the other room...

What is he talking about ...?

Something unusual ...?


Or maybe ...
Him ...?
Who could he mean ...?

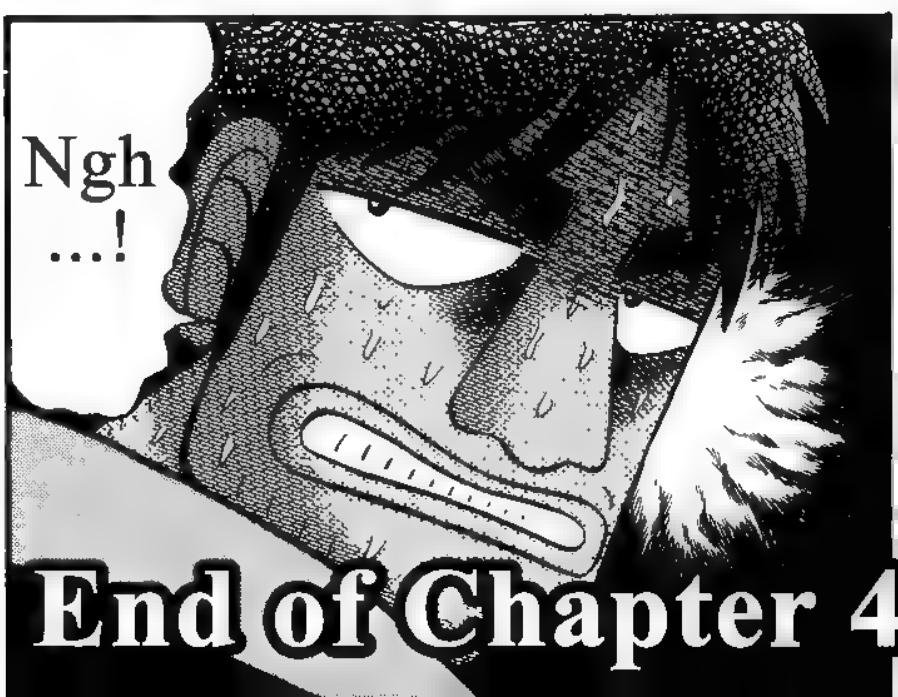
... just flushed his extra cards down the toilet.
This man here ...
Destroying cards is not allowed ...!
I repeat ...!
Any stunts like this will not be allowed ...!
We told you from the start ...
Quiet ...!

Destroying cards...

I repeat ...!

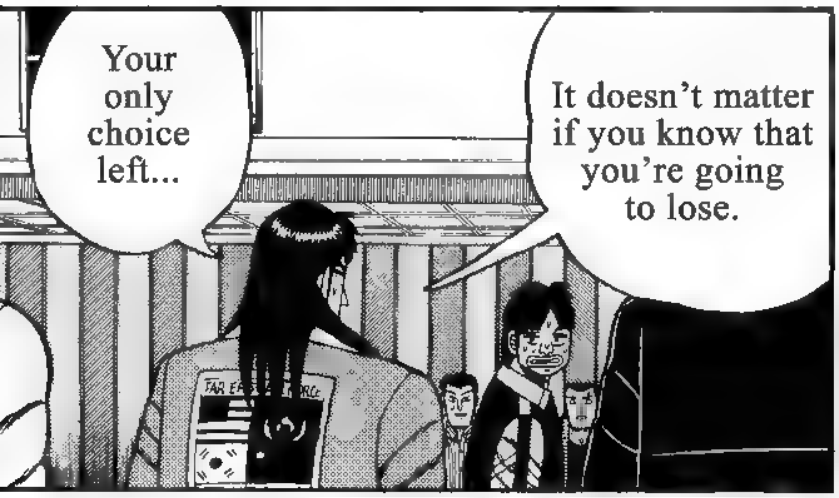
Ahh
...!

Hmph ...
?.....
... rrrk.
... ngh ...
Figure it out yet ...?
The cards that man destroyed ...
That's right ...
... that's perfectly natural.
... even if our cards don't match the number on the board ...
So you see ...
... in the count on the scoreboard.
... aren't showing up ...
TIME
0:04
G
C
P
32
5
33



End of Chapter 45

ざわ・・ざわ・・
Hmph ...


Your only choice left...
It doesn't matter if you know that you're going to lose.

That's right, Funai ...

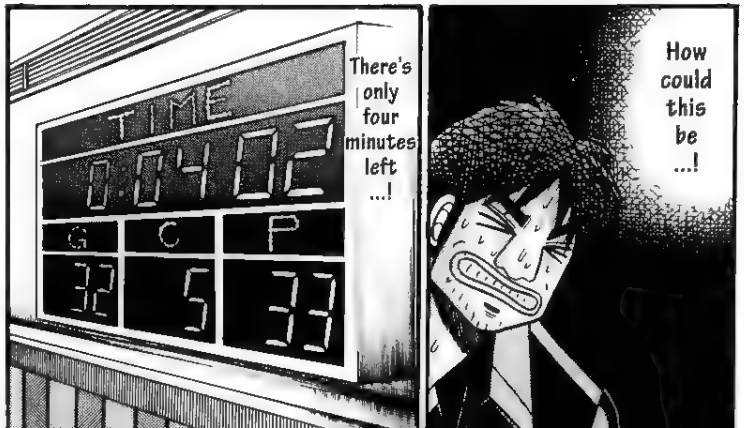
Ngh ...!
You've got no other opponents left!

...is to fight us!

It's me against you now ...
This really is the final match.

Come on, Funai ...
... let's go.

# Chapter 46: Into the Fire

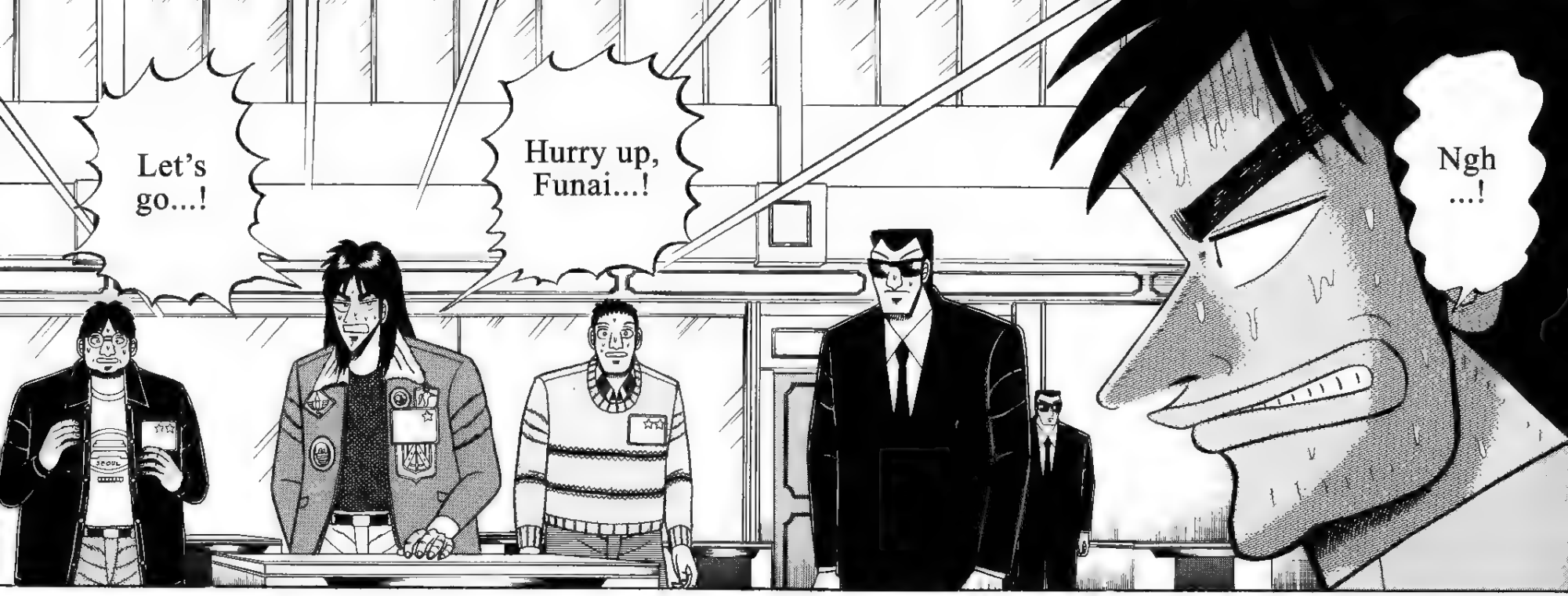


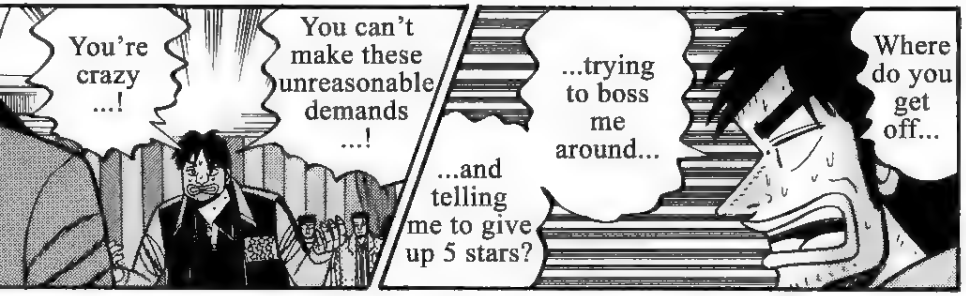
Three drowning men...!

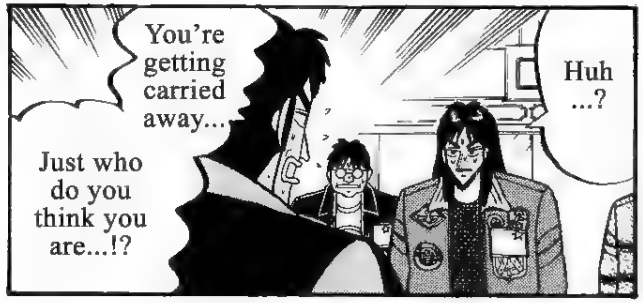
Stupid ...!
Stupid ...!
Stupid ...!

...it will all be over...
They'll send us to the other room.
If time runs our before we get rid of these cards ...
TIME
Hop to it, man ...
Come on, already ...

You can sulk about it later ...!
One match, 5 stars ...
Let's get this over with already ...
You understand that much, don't you...?
.....


Let's go...!
Hurry up, Funai...!
Ngh ...!


You're crazy ...!
You can't make these unreasonable demands ...!
...and telling me to give up 5 stars?
...trying to boss me around...
Where do you get off...


You're getting carried away...
Just who do you think you are...!?
Huh ...?

Get lost!

You can use your money to buy the remaining star once the auction begins.
You'll be able to just manage 9 stars that way...!
...that will bring your total to 8.
With 3 stars...
You'd better settle for 3...!

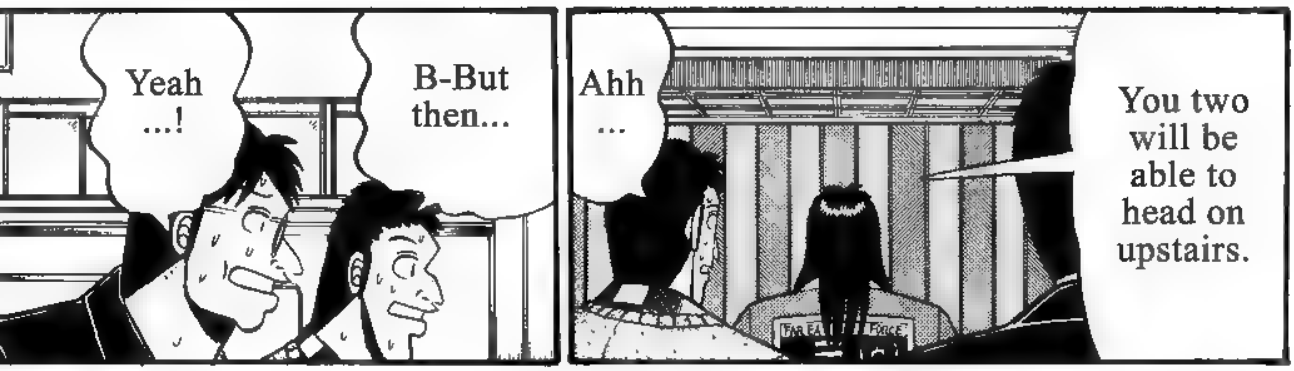
You're in just as much trouble here as I am...!
You think you can just push me around like this!?

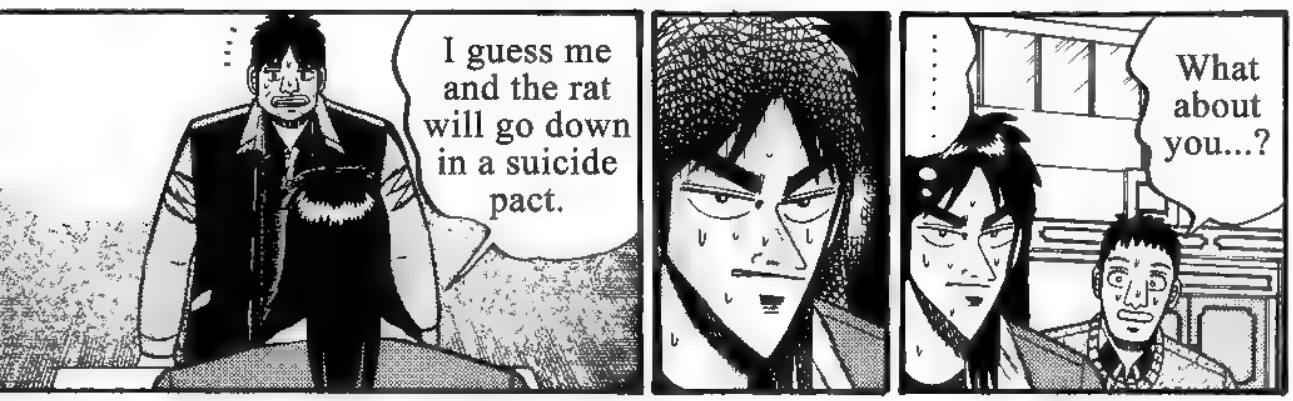
3 stars ...
So don't get greedy!
It's absurd ...!
More than that is just preposterous ...
That way you still survive ...!
Hehehe
Kaiji-san...
3 stars...
... Kaiji!
I'm not going to budge ...!
Don't bother arguing.
I said 5...!
Clean you ears out, Funai...
FAR EAS AIR FORCE

...for all it's worth...
We've got a surefire win, so obviously we're gonna ride that...
Think about it from our point of view ...
Kaiji ...
Kaiji ...!
That's just the way it is...
I'm not such a pushover that I'm willing to back down now.
That's what I'm saying ...!
It would be a shame to let it run out while you sit here dragging your feet.
Time is almost up.
Look around you...!
...you filthy snake!
We're all getting tired of your nonsense ...
..that's in both of our interests.
We both have to compromise and come to an agreement ...
...but now you wanna talk about compromise ?
Just save it...!
All night long it's been dog eat dog, every man for himself...
Save it...!

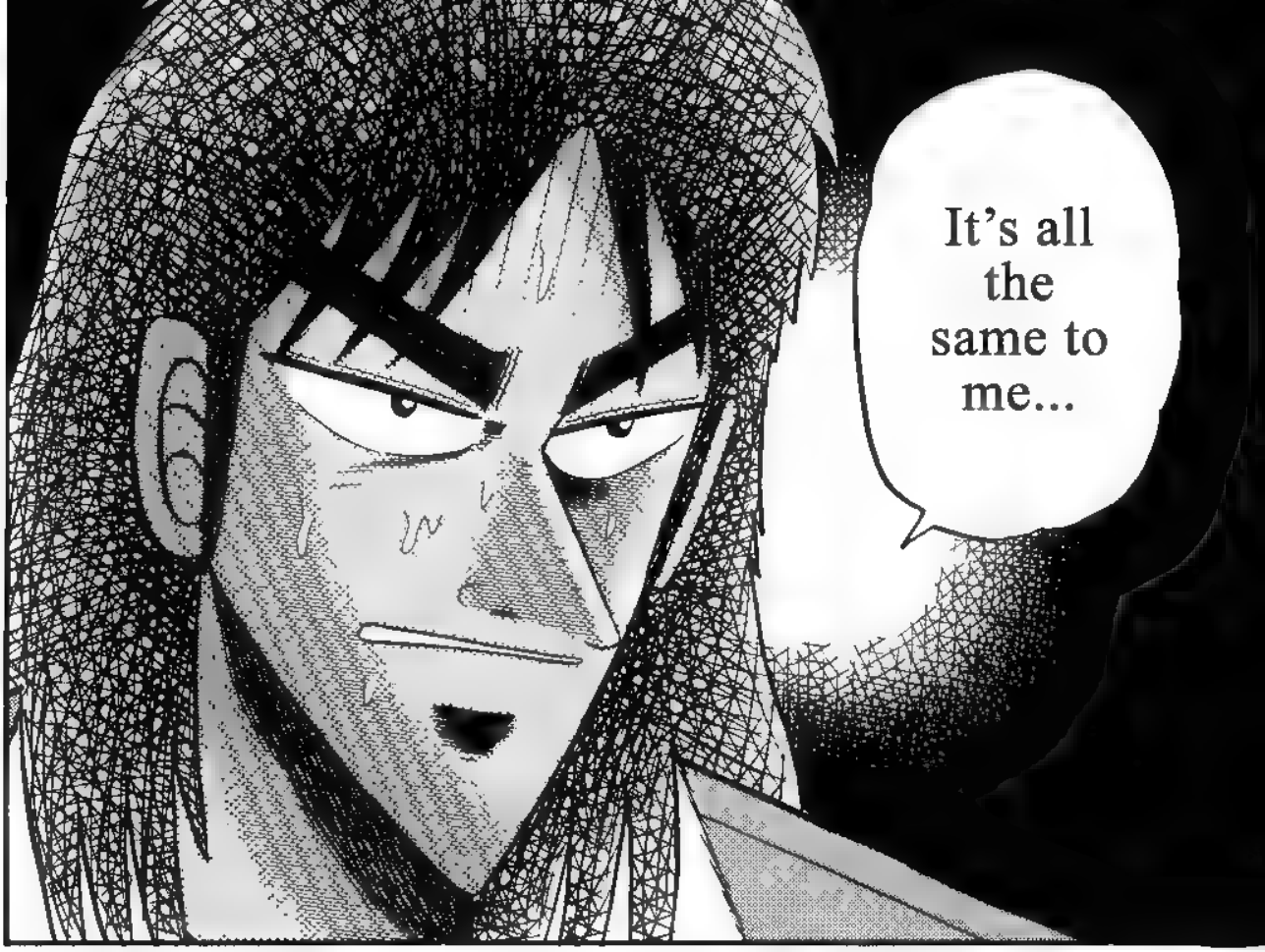
Ngh ...
... huh, Funai !?
But I guess once a crook, always a crook...
You oughtta be ashamed ...!
You two... Are you gonna let him do this...!?
Straw for brains ...!
I've had enough of you ...!
Arrghh ...!
Agh ...!
They'll send us all to the other room...!
...time's going to run out before we're done.
If you leave everything up to this madman...

...and the remaining 6 mil. yen...
...will get you to 6 stars.
If worst comes to worse, my star...
Relax ...
K-Kaiji -san...


Yeah ...!
B-But then...
Ahh ...
You two will be able to head on upstairs.


I guess me and the rat will go down in a suicide pact.
What about you...?

I'm happy either way...
...or I take you down with me instead...
From my point of view, whether I take 5 stars from you...
Who's bluffing ?
Quit trying to bluff ...!


It's all the same to me...

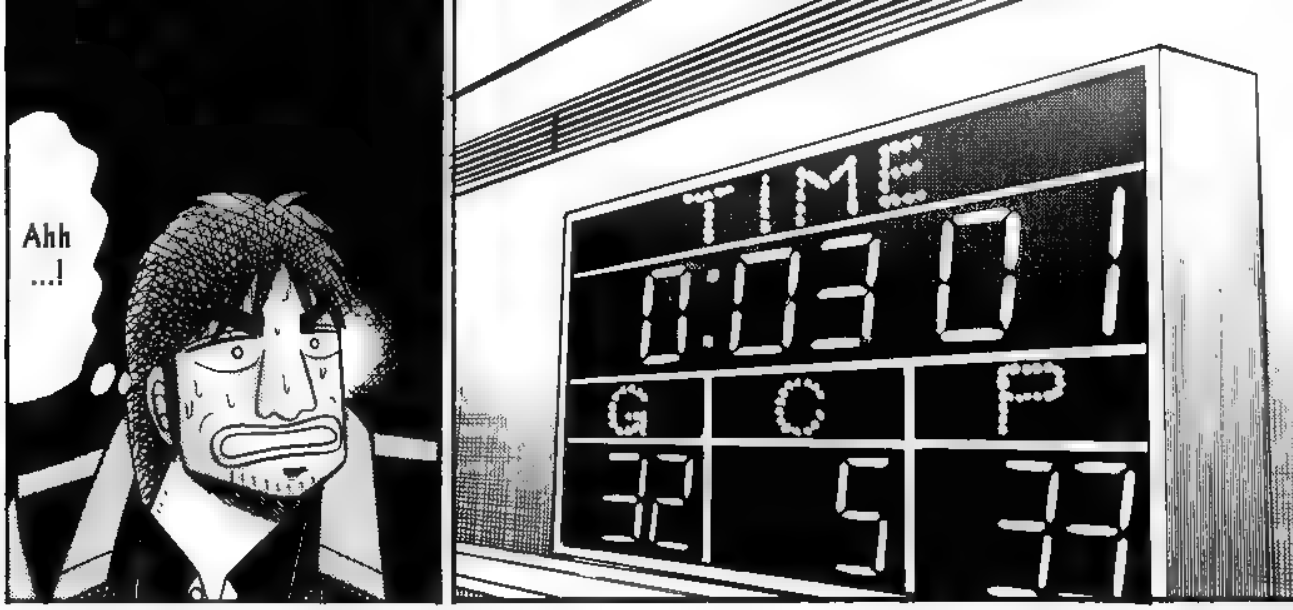
ざわ…
……
…?

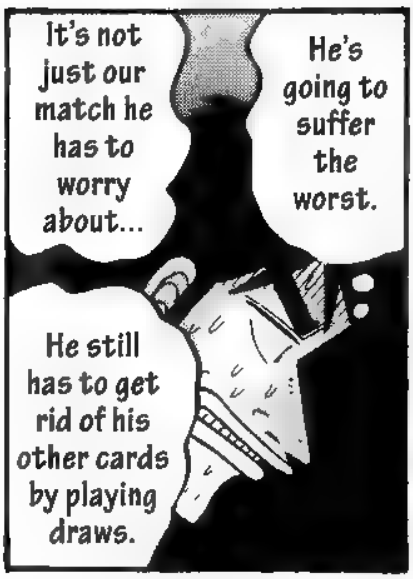
Ahh
…

Either way …
It's all the same to me...

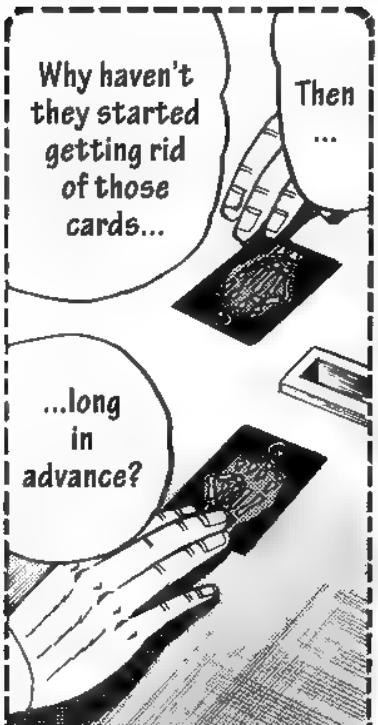
What do you mean, either way?
Just what I said …

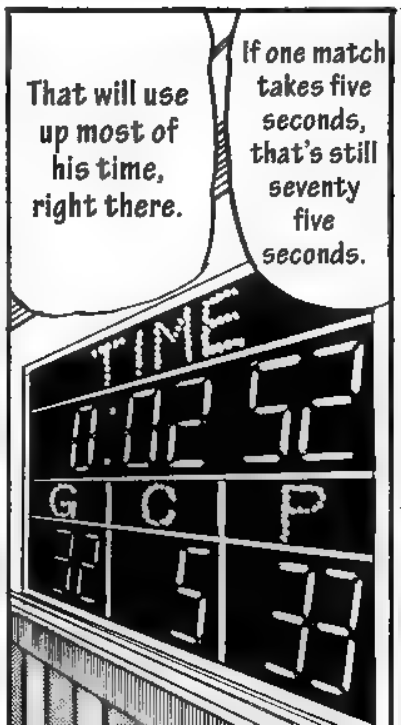
ざわ…
……
ざわ…
ざわ…
This is crazy …!
ざわ…
It's all the same …?
What in the world…
…is going on…
What is he thinking …?
What is it he's hiding …?
This is no time for simple bluffing…
Our time is almost up…
There's only…





It's not just our match he has to worry about...
He's going to suffer the worst.
He still has to get rid of his other cards by playing draws.

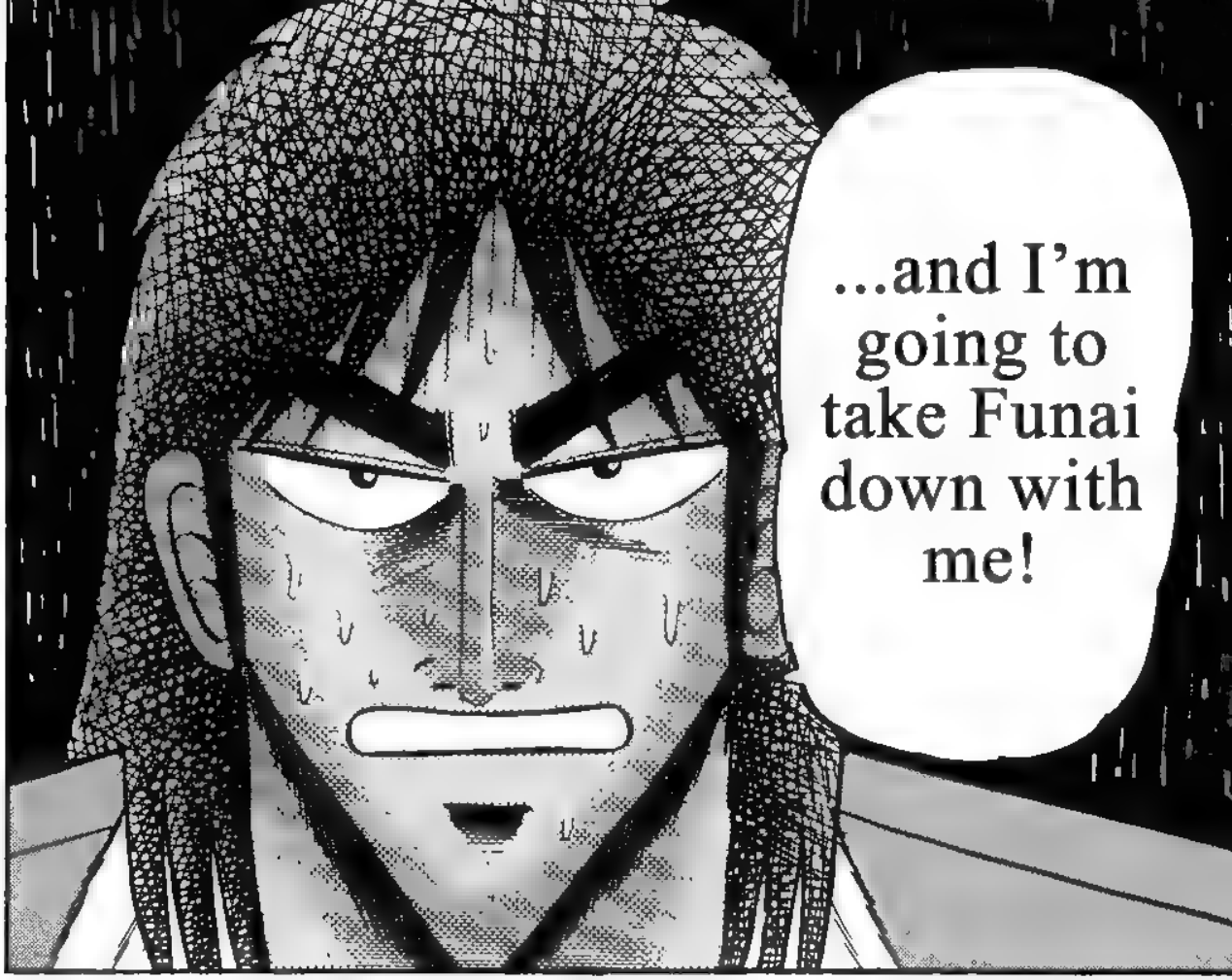
Our time is almost up...!





That will use up most of his time, right there.
If one match takes five seconds, that's still seventy five seconds.
TIME
0:02 52
G C P
32 5 33

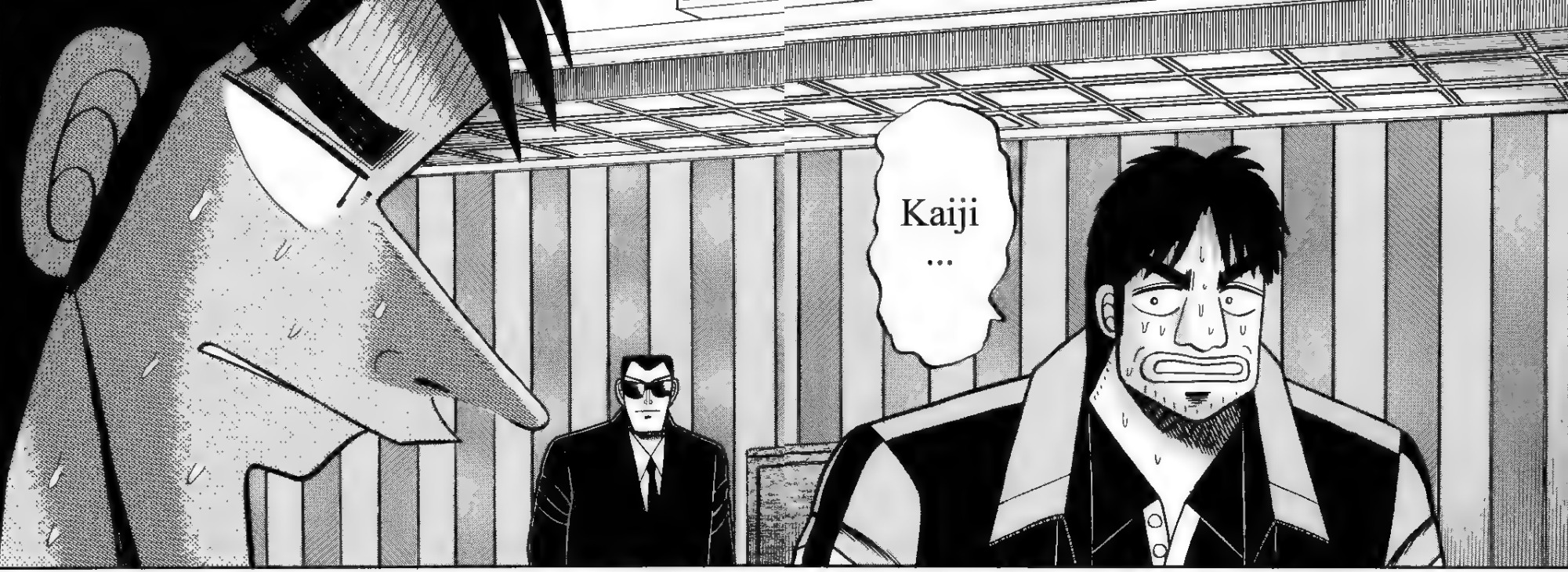
Why ...?
...while the time runs out?
Why are they just standing there...
Four seconds ...?
Why ...?
Why ...?
Why ...?
Why doesn't he act...?
Wait, no...
Ah ....
Then it will take about a hundred and forty seconds to get rid of...
...69 cards...
If each match only takes four seconds ...
They only have 66 cards left...!
... they have 66!
...they don't have 69 cards...
... which means ...
Kaiji just played three matches...

We've got 66 cards ...!
That's right...
Figured it out yet ...?
Ahh ...!
We can't get rid of them all.
One card will be left over.
It doesn't matter what we do with those 65 cards afterwards ...
Once our match is over, we'll have 65...
...one of us three is already destined to fall!
...we've lost 3 cards, and the total can't be split evenly anymore.
So you see ...
Thanks to that little accident ...
I'm the one who will fall...
Don't worry...
Kaiji-san...
Kaiji-san...!
K ...

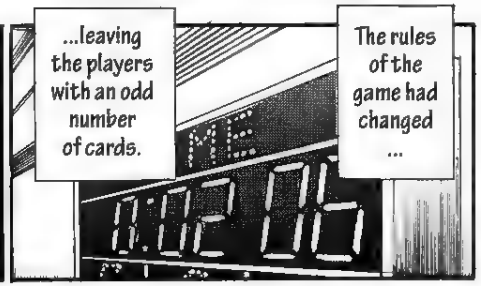


End of Chapter 46

# Chapter 47: Bringing Down the Hammer


Kaiji
...

...that since Kaiji's group was the last to get rid of their cards...
An odd number meant ...


...leaving the players with an odd number of cards.
The rules of the game had changed ...

65 couldn't be split in half, which meant...
That was their problem.
...after playing against Funai they would be left with 65 cards.
: Namely
... holding the bag.
...they were the ones left ...

Usually ...
Kaiji ...

However, partway through the game somebody had destroyed 3 cards.
...since each player received 12 cards the total sum was an even number.

Kaiji ...
Kaiji ...

One of the three would have to fall...
Ando, Furuhata and Kaiji ...
They couldn't get rid of their cards by playing draws ...!

It was inevitable.

Kaiji was prepared to die ...!
It's hopeless !

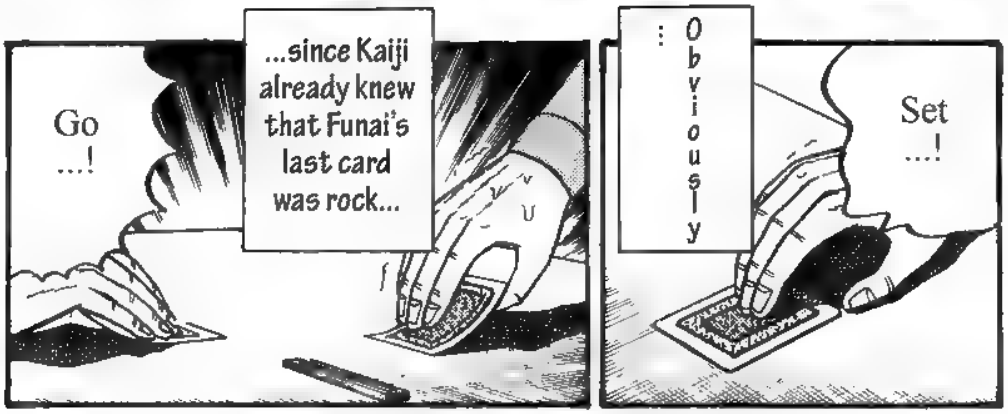
How can I hope to persuade someone ...
....who's willing to die for this!?

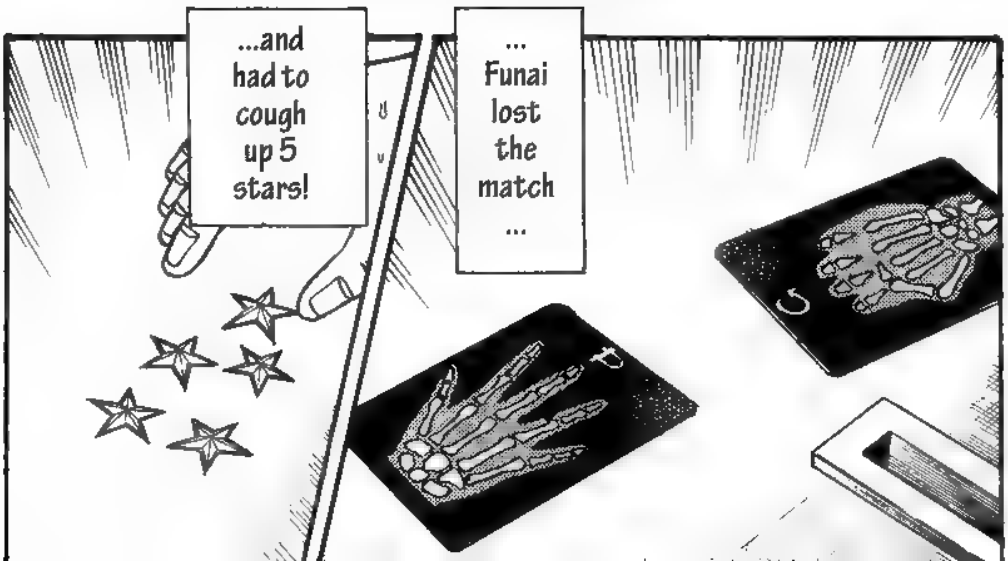
It's no use trying to talk him out of it...
If I'm not careful he'll drag me down with him ...
The outcome...

He's practically insane ...
...drunk on his own failure.

...was that Funai capitulated.
He was forced to accept ...
...all of Kaiji's conditions.

A match for 5 stars...!



Ngh
...
SWOOP

Kaiji -san ...
Kaiji -san ...
Kaiji did it ...
With their necks on the line, he had won 5 stars.
Only a minute and a half was left before the curtain fell.
At last ...

Nine stars ...!
He had made it...!

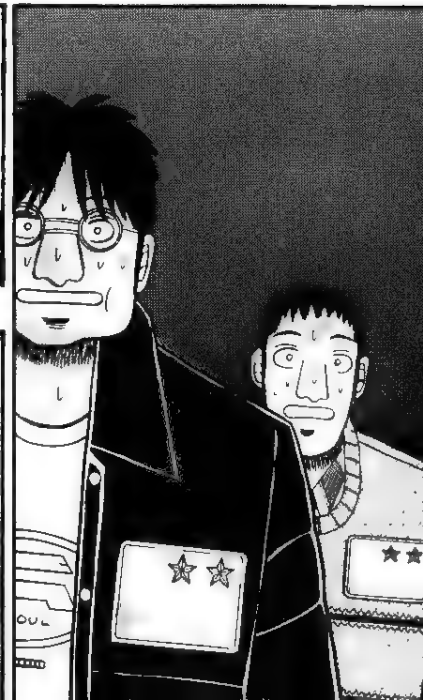
If that were the end of the story his victory would have been flawless...
Kaiji had taken 10 stars.
No, even better ...
.....
Kaiji -san ...
Kaiji -san ...
One of the three would have to fall.
Unfortunately, they were left with an uneven number of cards.
...truly a brilliant finish!
But it isn't that simple...
I'll take the fall, just like I said.
Relax ...
Listen closely ...!
Exactly ...
Entrust something ...?
?.....
I'm going to entrust something to you before I fall...

You going to resurrect me...!

...from the other room.

...in order to bring me back up...
...you two can give back my stars ...

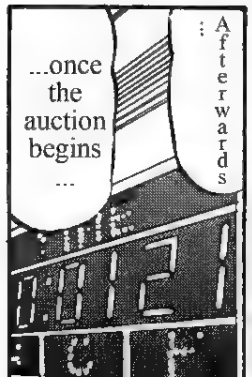
It's simple.
What ...?

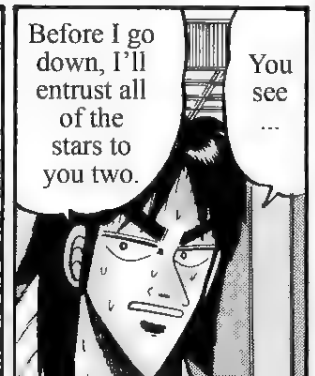


Are you sure ...
... they'll let us do that?

Yeah ...
B-But ...

Ahh ...
ざわ…ざわ…


Afterwards ...
...once the auction begins ...


Before I go down, I'll entrust all of the stars to you two.
You see ...

...
seem
fine
with
that
...
And
the
organizers
...
...are waiting to take 1 or 2 stars from the auction in order to be saved...
I know the guys loitering over there...
We will ...!
Don't worry ...
...but how do you the guys in the other room will be given that same chance?
...on a simple hunch here.
I'm not just relying ...
Ahh ...
.....
They have to...
... and the auctions began!
He's seen the guys from the other room, when the game was over...
?.....
Funai's seen them ...
I'm sure of it.

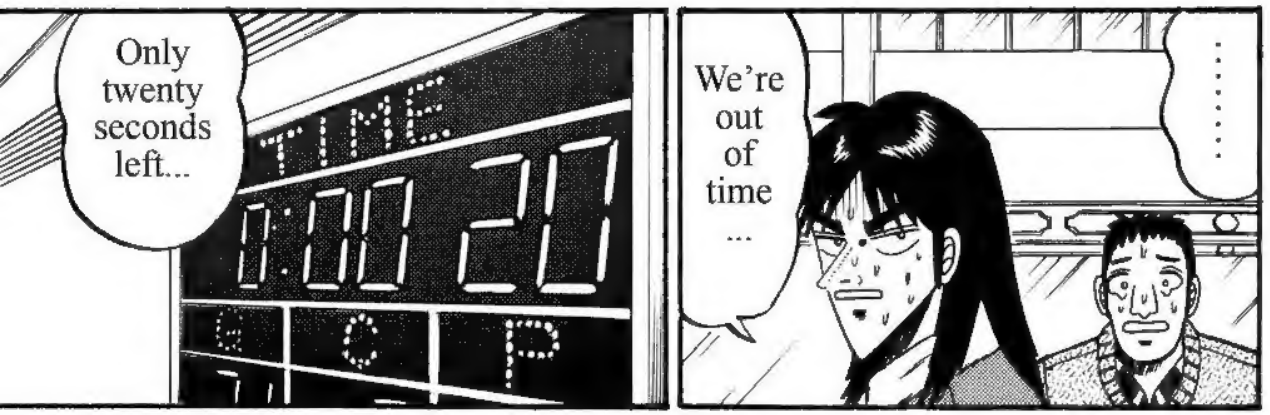
...or they turn on the lights so that you can see through the two-way mirror...
...the organizers either bring out the guys from the other room...
...and see what's going on inside.
Once the auction starts ...
That means ...
.....
Why would they do that...?
.....
Now why ...?
Either way, they open the room to the public.
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
...those of us who have fallen ...
...are part of that number!
.....
Probably ...
...they do it because ...

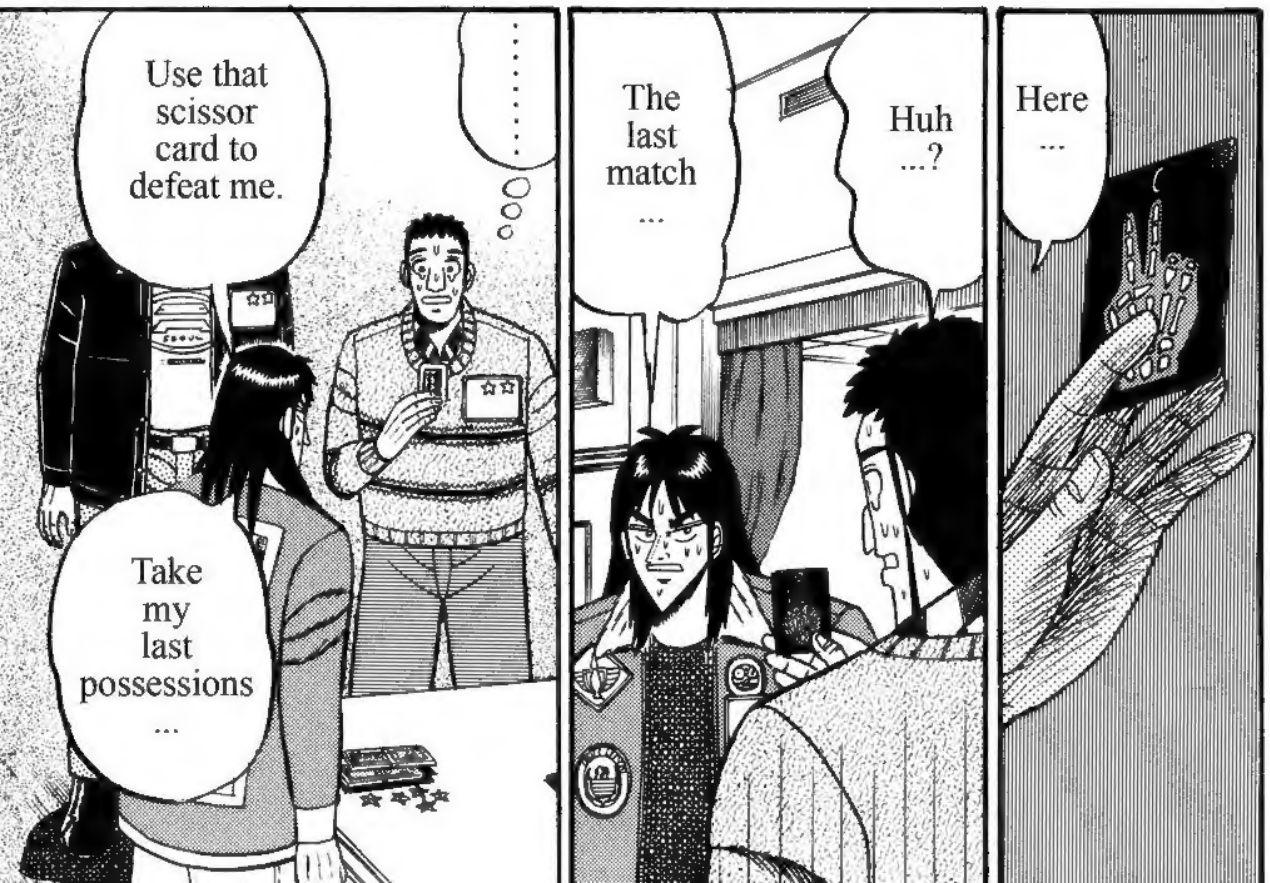
Unless you can point someone out and have them be brought back...
...they'd have no reason to do so.
That must be their reason for opening the room up.
We're on the list of people who can be saved...!
SEOUL
...one way or the other.
...they aren't going to say anything ...
...so unless you dare to make the first move...
...aren't interested in giving us any explanations...
The organizers ...
...I'm sure they'll give you the okay.
But if you say to them, "We've got 3 stars so let Kaiji out"...
... what if it isn't?
... but ... but ...
That sounds right ...
Ahh ...
If it wasn't okay, they wouldn't open up the room in the first place!

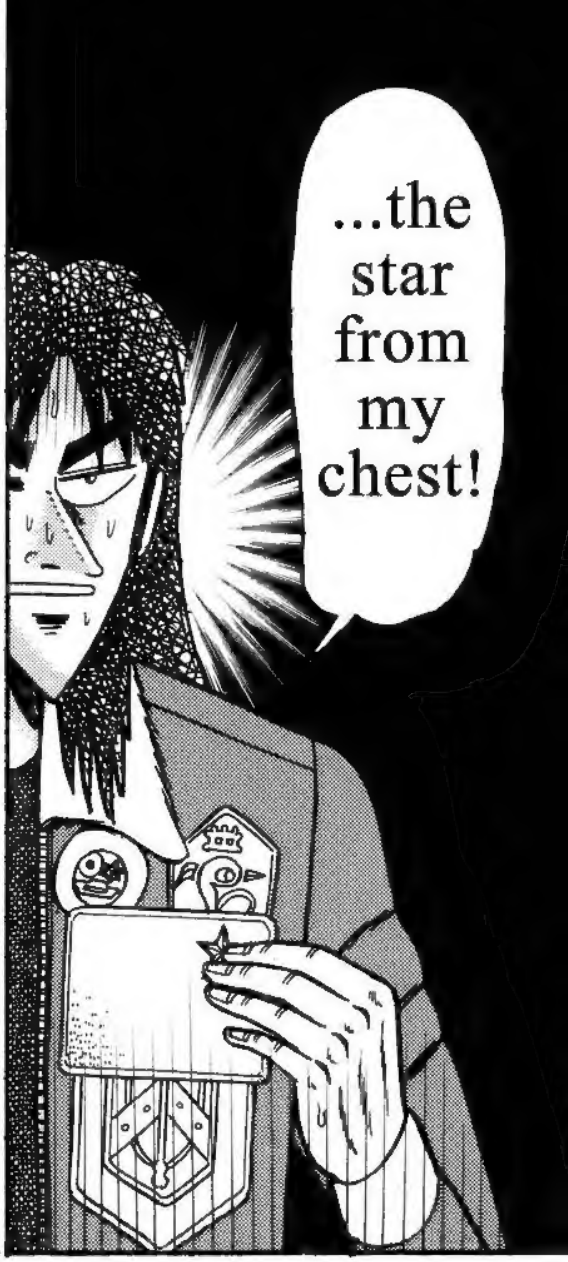
There's no other way...
Furuhata
What if last time they opened up the room but this time they don't...
What if they changed the rules?
SCATTER
...but it's the only option left!
It may not be much of a plan...
There's no other way ...
I know the danger I'm getting into...
Kaiji -san ...

The money, too...
Take them.
Here ...
Ando, Furuhata ...
...to bring me back from the other room ...
...or even 4 or 5 stars ...
Whether it takes 3 stars ...
Kaiji -san ...!
You can count on us...!
O-Of course ...
...I'm counting on you!
...I'll find a way to convince them.
Even if the organizers say they're not going to open the room this time...

Enough ...
Kaiji -san ...
.....
Kaiji -san ...
We're going to bring you back...!


Only twenty seconds left...
TIME
0:00 20
.....
We're out of time ...


.....
Use that scissor card to defeat me.
Take my last possessions ...
The last match ...
Huh ...?
Here ...



End of Chapter 47

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